

# Public Libraries

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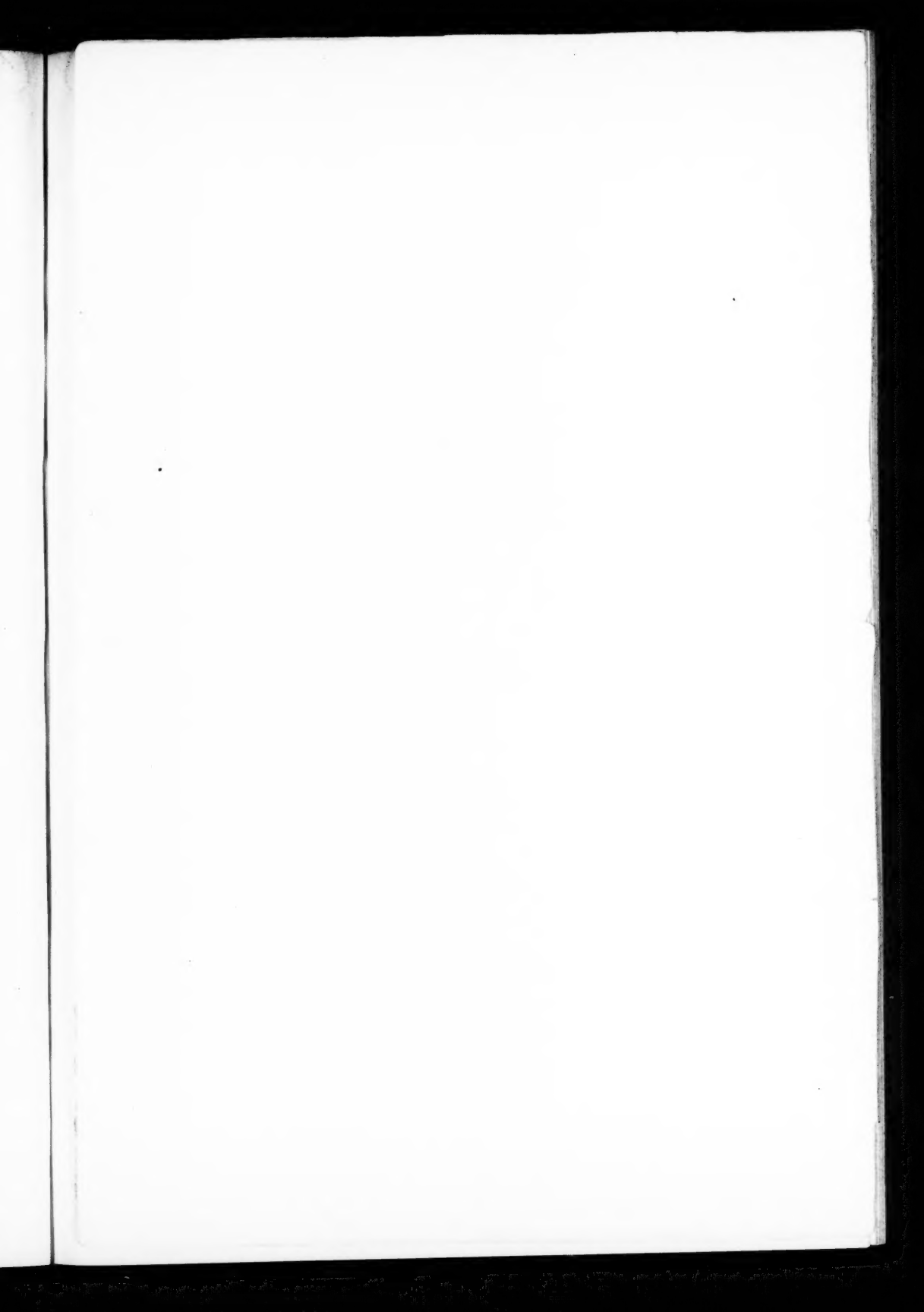
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# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 10

April, 1905

No. 4

## • Library Extension \*

**Edw. A. Birge, trustee Madison free library**

Nearly 2000 years ago Cicero, who among the men of the ancient world perhaps best fulfills our modern idea of a gentleman and scholar, expressed his love for books in words frequently quoted, but which can not be too often repeated: Books, he said, are the food of youth, the delight of old age; the ornament of prosperity, the refuge and comfort of adversity; a delight at home and no hindrance abroad; companions by night, in travel, in the country.

It is the lover of books and not the exploiter of books who speaks in these words. The relation of the librarian to books is wholly different from that of the scholar. It is the task of the modern librarian, and especially of the librarian who is charged with the administration of a public library, to make books a part of the working world, not of the world of leisure. It is his problem to induce the workingman to read, and to read books. It is his mission to direct the workers of the world to books, the workingman and the working woman, whose daily life is given to labor in factories, in stores, in offices, or in the home; to show them that they may find in books that solace from care, that help in affairs, that inspiration in life which books, and books alone, can give to the reader. It rests with him to cultivate among all classes of people, and not among the selected few, that

love of books, at once the result and the cause of the habit of reading, through which the larger and broader life of man is disclosed to the reader. Such is the problem of our day and of your profession—a new problem, and one which our day will solve only in part. Its solution will be reached along various lines by experiment, by repeated failure, by constant and unwearied application of the old-fashioned rule of "cut and try."

It is my duty this evening to speak of some of the means which libraries have adopted in recent times to aid in the solution of this problem of bringing together books, readable books, and the masses of the people.

### I

#### How to get books to the people

First of distributing agencies I must place branches, sub-stations, delivery stations, school libraries and similar agencies for collecting, distributing and placing library books. These have greatly increased in number in recent years in the larger libraries, as a perusal of their reports will readily show. In 1903 there were in the city of Cleveland 52 branches of the public library, and at all but 17 of these permanent collections of books were kept. Springfield, Mass., in 1904 reports that there are 179 places in that city where books from the library can be obtained; 146 of these, however, are classrooms in the various schoolhouses. There are six deposit stations and branches of various kinds in churches, factories,

\*Read before Wisconsin library association at Beloit, Feb. 23, 1905.

fire engine houses, etc. Boston in 1904 reports 185 stations and sub-stations; St Louis 60 stations outside of the school-houses. In Pittsburg books may be drawn from the following places outside of the central library: 5 branch libraries, 16 deposit stations, 50 schools, 28 home libraries, and 11 playgrounds. From these branches are issued about three-fifths of the total circulation of books. It is worthy of note that where the statistics of the circulation of the classes of books are given for separate branches, the proportion of fiction to the other classes is about the same from the smaller collections at the stations as is found to be the case in the main library. In Brooklyn there are 21 branches, besides a department of traveling libraries of which 179 were sent out, with a circulation of 53,000v. in 1903. Associated with the library of Cincinnati there are 6 branches in the adjacent country with 42 stations, circulating 155,000v. Special libraries are furnished for firemen and for a number of other special classes of readers. A technological library is maintained for the benefit of men employed in factories, and special pains are taken to secure and to circulate books of interest to this class of readers. Pittsburg also makes a specialty of technical libraries, and 71 per cent of its cardholders are employees.

I have been especially interested in the report regarding school libraries in Buffalo, N. Y. The report of that library for 1904 shows that this city now maintains nearly 700 grade libraries, containing more than 30,000v., with a circulation of more than 335,000v., nearly one-third of the total circulation of the library. Each book, therefore, was taken home on an average of 11 times, which the librarian justly characterizes as a remarkable showing, especially considering that the school year is less than 10 months long. In one of the schools the class libraries, aggregating 530 books, showed a circulation of nearly 12,000 during the school year, and the librarian is convinced that these books were all taken out to be read, and

that there is positive evidence that they were read, as well as taken home.

Buffalo also maintains a system of traveling libraries, of which 149 were in circulation in 1904. The fire engine houses, truants' and other special schools, Sunday schools, literary societies, church associations, hospitals, all share in the privileges of these libraries. More than 5,000 books were contained in them.

It is difficult to state just how much work of this kind is being done in Wisconsin, and how Wisconsin compares with other states in this respect. The Milwaukee library has always been a pioneer in this kind of library extension, and for many years has maintained a thoroughly organized and efficient system of school duplicate libraries. For 1903 the library reports 27,657 books issued 143,037 times by 392 teachers in 45 graded public schools, State normal school, 3 high schools, 1 school for the deaf, 5 parochial schools, 12 Sunday schools, and 1 vacation school. Books were also sent to charitable institutions, settlements, factories, and to one branch library. Most of the information outside of Wisconsin which the Free library commission has furnished me has come from cities of the grade of Milwaukee and the reports from Milwaukee compare favorably with those from cities of similar size. Apart from Milwaukee, the libraries in Wisconsin are all small; the largest not much exceeding 20,000v. Ten libraries at present contain between 10,000v. and 20,000v. Six of these—Superior, Madison, Kenosha, La Crosse, Racine, and Oshkosh—maintain sub-stations or effective school libraries, or both. The libraries in Wisconsin which contain between 5,000v. and 10,000v. number 18, and of these only four—Baraboo, Grand Rapids, Marinette, and Merrill—are definitely working with schoolroom libraries for the lower grades, although, doubtless, many others are aiding the schools through teachers' cards, or special privileges. The Rhinelander library, having but 2500v., maintains a branch and one school library.

It is certain that the libraries in Wisconsin of moderate size have still be-

fore them a great and very profitable task in the extension of the use of their libraries in the schools. The question of establishing delivery stations is one on which very little general advice can be given, since the necessity of a delivery station depends much on local conditions and the habit of the people of the city. But there can be no question that in all cities large enough to maintain a library of 5,000v., very useful work can be done by means of teachers' cards, and still more by a regularly organized library of duplicates for use in schools. These libraries should consist not of the books which the school requires for "collateral reading"—these the school board should supply—but of books which lie quite outside of the regular line of school duties—books selected not merely to give information to the pupils in regard to their studies, but to stimulate and to cultivate in them the love of reading. Such libraries can be introduced at little cost in comparison to their service, and are one of the most effective ways of giving books to the people, and of developing the habit of reading.

Many of the larger cities report special collections of books for various classes in the community put in places where members of these classes can most easily reach them. Springfield, Mass., and several other cities have collections of books for firemen. The street railway barns, Young men's Christian association rooms, church parlors, I have noted in various cities as receiving special collections of books. Parks in Brooklyn and playgrounds in Pittsburgh receive collections. In Pittsburgh and in Cincinnati much has been done in bringing together collections of books for men employed in factories. These are found both at the central library and in smaller collections which are deposited at the factories. The books are carefully selected, both such as may give general information on mechanical subjects, and special information regarding the trade or occupation of the factory where the local collection may be placed.

The proprietors of the factory often aid in the establishment of such local libraries. I am not aware that any collections of just this sort are in use in Wisconsin, yet there are few cities of any considerable size where it might not be profitable to establish them. Certainly the manufacturing cities, such as Beloit and the other busy manufacturing towns found in the Fox river valley and elsewhere in Wisconsin, offer an unusually good opportunity for such subordinate libraries.

**Home libraries**—One of the most interesting experiments in library extension is that of furnishing libraries for homes, which is being tried in two forms. In several cities, especially Pittsburg and Cincinnati, home libraries have been sent to families in the poorer parts of the city, where books are least used. These libraries consist of some 20 books carefully chosen, are placed in homes where children are to be found, and are to be used by a circle of 10 to 15 children. It would obviously be worse than useless to send these books into such homes without guidance for the readers, and the library sends out visitors who meet regularly these circles of children and show them how to use the books with profit and interest. The city of Cincinnati had, in 1903, 15 such libraries in use with an annual circulation of 3400v. Nine or more visitors aided the library in this branch of its work. In Pittsburg in 1904 there were 28 such libraries with an annual circulation of some 9500v., and the work was made efficient by the aid of about 75 visitors. It is obvious that work of this sort must be regarded rather as missionary work than as library extension in the proper sense of the word, and while something of this kind may well be done by any library, only a very small portion of the city which the library serves is likely to be furnished with books in this manner. If in Pittsburg, where the work is best organized, it requires about three visitors to look after the interests of each library, and if each

library is to serve a circle of 10 to 15 children it is plain that only a very small portion of the children of the city can be thus reached with the funds which a library is ordinarily able to command.

In 1903 the New York state library announced that it would send out home libraries for country readers—a scheme entirely different from that just referred to under a similar name and an enterprise which properly comes under the head of library extension. These libraries consist of 10 books and are sent to any citizen of New York who resides in the country at a cost of \$1 per library, to defray the expenses of transportation. The library may be kept for three months and then exchanged on the same terms for another similar library. The central authorities attempt to furnish in these libraries, so far as possible, the books for which the recipient asks.

This naturally leads me to mention the matter of traveling libraries in general. I need say nothing on the general subject here at the Wisconsin state library association, whose members have been pioneers in developing the state and county system of traveling libraries. I will only note that in several of the larger cities, notably in Cleveland and in Brooklyn, traveling libraries are a regular part of the city library system. There is no question but that this method of library extension forms a good field for experiment on the part of libraries in cities of perhaps 20,000 or more inhabitants.

**Home delivery**—A matter which has been more talked about than efficiently tried, is that of the delivery of books, either free or paid, at the homes of patrons. Many people seem to have thought that this would be an effective means of increasing circulation, but the practical difficulties developed in trying the experiment seem to have been found in general too great to be overcome. In 1879 the Library Delivery Company of Boston offered to deliver books from Boston athenæum for 5 cents a trip; the book being returned free at the

proper time. How long this company remained in operation, or how much success it reached we are not informed. In 1901 the library at Springfield, Mass., attempted a delivery of books once a week at the rate of 5 cents per week for each house supplied. It was found that the library lost money by this method, and various changes were made, as indicated in the successive reports of the library. In the report for 1903 it was stated that each person paid by private arrangement the cost of the delivery of the books, and that the library had no further financial concern in the enterprise. The librarian's report for 1904 makes no mention of this method of delivery. The small number of families who availed themselves of this means of securing books would seem to indicate that no large success can be expected from it and no great increase in the circulation of the library can come from it. Experiments have been tried by having schoolboys deliver books on their way to and from school, and this plan would seem to promise good results, except for the fact that much executive ability is demanded from the library if service of this class is to be efficiently organized and employed.

**Rent collections**—I find in the papers sent to me several very interesting discussions regarding rent collections, the authors of which express just the same preliminary doubt and subsequent belief regarding the plan as were present in the mind of the Madison Free library board when they established a rent collection some two years ago. In our case, as in that of other libraries, experience has shown us that the rent collection is an important aid not merely to the general circulation, but to the popularizing of the library. In Madison our rent collection numbered at the close of last year 207 books, and each book was drawn during the year on an average of at least 25 times since the circulation was 5200v. As fast as books are paid for by the rents received they are transferred to the main library; 62 books,

nearly one-fourth of all thus far purchased, were transferred during the year. It is the intention of such collections that each volume shall pay for itself and the profit, in the form of additions, shall then go to the main library. Of course, the rent collection contains only duplicates of books already in the main library and which are purchased in the normal number of copies. Kenosha and Portage, as well as Madison, report successful rent collections, and doubtless other libraries possess them.

**Miscellaneous**—Buffalo reports the success of an experiment in circulating interesting books which are not fiction by placing 50v. in a special case to which attention was drawn by a conspicuous sign. The circulation of these 50 books averaged 190v. per week, new volumes being added as those already in the case were drawn. It seems to me that the most valuable hint in this experiment lies in the original selection of a small number of books and in keeping this number full as books were withdrawn.

The use of the telephone by patrons in calling for books is still under discussion. Neenah, in its last report, mentions the entire success of the free use of the telephone by its patrons. Wider experience is necessary, however, before we shall know whether the privilege is, on the whole, for the greatest good of the greatest number.

The subject of rural subscribers almost necessarily involves that of rural free delivery and opens a very large topic and one which is hardly yet ready for discussion. A majority of the Wisconsin libraries issue books to country people without charge. Many of our smaller libraries have been especially active in furnishing books to rural subscribers. Arcadia, Menomonie, Oconomowoc, Plymouth, and Portage each report over 150 country borrowers. Unquestionably, a large increase in country borrowers will come should Congress pass the bill providing a rate on library books of 1 cent a pound.

*(Part II will follow this.)*

### School Work of a Librarian\*

Frank A. Hutchins, Madison, Wis.

It is the business of the librarian of a public library to aid in giving every citizen the desire and the opportunity to use good books for worthy purposes. His attitude towards pupils in the public schools should be no whit different from his attitude towards any other group of citizens. He simply feels that in dealing with them he has certain advantages and certain disadvantages. He has an advantage in the fact that the teacher has "rounded up" a lot of his patrons at the impressionable age, and he can teach them certain elementary facts about books and inspire them with a love for the best books, collectively. He can also make the good teacher a first-class assistant in all his work and often train sub-librarians among the pupils. He can repay the teacher's aid by making other schoolroom work of greater interest and value.

The main disadvantage lies in the fact that the good teacher is rightly jealous of her prerogatives and duties and does not give him the same opportunity with the boy of the school that he can get with the individual boy that he picks up on the streets. The good teacher and the librarian, looking at education in a broad way, know that books are the most important factor after companionship, and that a love for the best literature is a means of obtaining good companionship. They know also that the books the boy reads for pleasure do more to determine his character than the books he studies. While the teacher is training the boy to interpret the printed page, three classes of libraries may be soliciting his patronage—the home library, the public library and that of the street. The good home library, in the custody of the most zealous of all guardians of books, is the best of them all. It is a wise librarian and a wise parent who make the public library subsidiary to it. But for nine children in ten it is a choice between the street

\*From address at Wisconsin library association meeting at Beloit, Feb. 22, 1905.



library, with its reading-rooms in saloons, livery stables, barns and caboosees, and the public library. The librarian realizes the fact that the public and the street libraries are contending for the patronage of a lot of young citizens who are gathered in groups by teachers and that the one which offers the most attractions will win. He also knows that if he aids the teacher and merits her confidence it will help in the contest. He must therefore get the teacher's point of view and get her sympathy for his work. (The speaker here exhibited some sample volumes of the street library which he had purchased that day in Beloit, stating that he had found three places where large quantities of the stuff were regularly sold.)

The chief aims of the work done for the child by the coöperation of the library and the school are to give him an enduring love of good books, and to train him to use them to wrest needed information promptly and certainly.

To secure this love for books the librarian will send to the school collections of carefully selected volumes, which are wholesome, interesting, so related to the school work as to lead on the pupil whose imagination has been excited by some topics discussed in class, and so varied as to appeal to those with special aptitudes.

To train pupils to be students and to go regularly to the public library for purposes of self-education, the librarian will use a number of methods. He will give the teacher a special card, aside from her personal card, on which she can draw a number of books for school use, retaining them for some time without fear of fines. He will try to have a special department, an alcove or a table, where books, magazines, clippings, educational journals, pictures of special interest to teachers, lists of children's books and helps for holiday celebrations are kept. Sometimes he reserves books on special shelves to meet special needs of schools. Sometimes he obtains the use of a room in a school building and gathers in it books and printed material which he uses to train

pupils in research work. Again he gives personal assistance to pupils who come to the library for aid in debates, in class work or in writing essays. Saturday mornings he sets aside to give special assistance to teachers.

Of special importance is the training to give children facility in using the library for study, pleasure in such work, and an appreciation of the fact that the good library can aid in the solution of a multitude of everyday problems.

To secure this training the librarian gives talks, once or twice each term, to pupils, commencing with the fifth or sixth grade, on the care and use of books, card catalogs, encyclopedias, tables of contents, indexes, periodical indexes, atlases, gazetteers and the use of the library. These talks should be simple and lucid but full enough to aid young people who will not enter the high school. In the high school there should be more advanced work on the classification and arrangement of the books in the public library, in the use of special and miscellaneous indexes, yearbooks, public documents and practical problems in getting information from reference books of all kinds.

Added to all this should be personal work with the individual teachers and pupils to encourage those who lag.

### Progress in a Small Library\*

The first move made toward library extension to country readers was to invite members of neighboring town boards to meet on a certain date in the City library, on which occasion the library and its facilities were shown to them, and application blanks given out for distribution. The announcement was made that all readers were to have free use of the books but that a small contribution would be acceptable if the towns chose to give it.

Books of special interest to farmers were exhibited at the county fair and application blanks furnished to such as desired them.

\*Report on progress of the Free public library, Portage, Wis., as suggested in program of State library association at the meeting in Beloit, Feb. 22, 1905

Books are furnished to the teachers of the rural schools on special teachers' cards and these teachers have been requested to announce to the parents, through the pupils, that all the advantages of the library are open and free to them.

Books have been issued in great numbers to teachers during institutes and the county superintendent has been urged to announce the fact throughout the county that the books are free. Women's clubs in the neighboring towns, as well as debating clubs in schools, have drawn upon us quite largely.

Lists of books that might appeal to farmers are published in the local papers. Again, country readers are urged to acquaint their friends with the fact that books are free.

Lastly, to enable non-residents to conform to the rules of circulation, the time limit has been extended to four weeks except in the case of seven-day books. There is no distance limit and many of our books go beyond the county.

We have no figures to show what might have been accomplished this year, since the library has been closed for three months during the period when country people have the most leisure for reading. Altogether we have issued 187 reader's cards outside of the city and the number of non-resident readers is gradually increasing. Still, we have not cultivated this class of patrons to the extent that the librarian, personally, believes to be desirable. The limitations of the library, and the fact that the home public in a measure needs to be educated to the idea, have required that we proceed slowly in this direction.

To the subject of better reading we have tried to give considerable attention, although we make no claim to new methods.

Lists of good books on special subjects are prepared from time to time and printed in the newspapers and at the same time posted in the library.

Special lists and the books listed are placed on a shelf bulletin in a conspicuous place in the library.

On a good book desk are displayed

the best books on miscellaneous subjects.

Attractive editions of standard works are put in as fast as our means will permit and attention called to the same.

We closely follow and largely work with women's clubs for which we furnish liberally the best books and through them secure a large reading circle.

We make special exhibits which awaken interest in the lines displayed.

We furnish non-fiction cards to all readers who want them and special privilege cards to teachers and the working committee of women's clubs, mission clubs and Sunday schools.

We urge readers of good books to become missionaries in the cause of extension. When a reader brings back a book he likes he is urged to recommend it to such as are likely to read it.

When a book of historical fiction is issued, we suggest that a book on the history or facts on which it is based be taken with it.

We recommend the choice of a good book as often as the opportunity may allow.

Most important of all, we work with the schools, a detailed report of which was given yesterday.

We make an extensive use of book-marks.

We supply German books both from our own shelves and from two traveling libraries furnished by the commission. These books are used by a rather limited number but a very interested body of Germans.

The reading-room is open on Sundays from 2 to 6 p. m. except during the summer months.

MRS W. G. CLOUGH, Lib'n.

The lowliest reading-room may be made the sphere of some noble work. What may there be honestly and zealously done, with no flourish of trumpets or shoutings of applause, may hold its divinely appointed place in that mighty labor of human culture and human discipline which began at the outer gate of Eden, and will have no ending until time shall be no more.

### Library Work in High Schools\*

A brief working outline for the teaching of reference books to high school students

In the Central high school of Detroit, Mich., the plan briefly outlined below has been in operation for nearly three years. By means of the systematic arrangement of sections, nearly 2000 students are reached twice each school year with drill work in the use of library tools.

The talks are graded from course one to course eight, and work in harmony with the regular grading of the English courses, which embrace all the students of the school. English is chosen simply because all students are required to take English. Any other subject which runs through the entire high school course would serve equally well. Course one of the library talks is given to all students taking course one in English; course two to all taking course two in English, etc. To illustrate: All students taking English one who have a study hour during the first period Monday, for example, meet the librarian in some convenient room outside of the library. Those who have the second period Tuesday, the third period Wednesday, etc., meet in the same place. The talks are 40 minutes in length. The reference books to be examined are transferred to the room for the period, and their leading characteristics explained. A brief outline of the work is given below. The same plan is adopted for courses two, three, etc., up through course eight. Each talk is given at least five times, in the larger grades from six to ten times.

The set of questions which follow the talks later require the handling of these books in the library by each student in the search of the answer to some illustrative reference point. The students are arranged in sections for this work also, to prevent crowding. The answered problems are handed to the English teacher, are corrected, and take the place of a daily recitation, thus making

the work required. The main points, such as indexes to sets, atlases, concordances, Poole's index, card catalog, etc., are reviewed each time and new material added. This review is necessary, as the talks are six months apart; they are, of course, simple and adapted to students of high school age.

#### Brief outline

**Course 1**—Use of simple indexes, explaining significance of dash between pages, heavy type, abbreviations such as *ib.*, *sq.* Index to first lines, titles, authors, etc. Index to works in more than one volume. Index to atlases, city maps, etc. Use of a concordance. Poole's index to periodical literature.

**Course 2**—Review points in course one. A very brief outline of the Decimal classification, simply to make the call numbers more intelligible. Arrangement and use of the card catalog. General nature of the following reference books: Century Dictionary of names, Brewer's Reader's handbook, Appendix to Webster's dictionary, Lippincott's Biographical dictionary, Lippincott's Gazetteer of the world, Harper's Classical dictionary, Smith's Classical dictionary, etc.

**Course 3**—A careful review of all preceding points, with special reference to the use of a more complicated index, as illustrated by Gayley's Classical myths in English literature. Careful review of Poole. The *Reader's guide to periodical literature*. List of current periodicals in *Review of reviews*. Index to St Nicholas. Fiction indexes, especially Baker's Guide to the best fiction. General nature of the following reference books: Wheeler's Familiar allusions, Harper's Book of facts, Brewer's Historical notebook, Phrase and fable, Dictionary of miracle, and review of Reader's handbook. A word about the purpose of a preface. Editions de luxe and publishers.

**Course 4**—A careful review of preceding points. A full outline of the nature of the American library association index, paying special attention to its indexing such works as the Smithsonian reports, reports of the Bureau of edu-

\*Miss Hopkins has printed a set of questions for this course, also a pamphlet illustrating aids of indexes, classification, abbreviations, and some excellent brief notes on United States public documents.



cation, reports of the American historical association, United States consular reports, Bureau of labor reports, Warner's Library of the world's best literature, etc. Nature of the following reference books: Wheeler, Who wrote it? Peet, Who's the author? Frey, Sobriquets and nicknames; Walsh, Popular customs; Christy, Proverbs and maxims; Chambers' Book of days; Brooking's and Ringwalt's, Briefs for debate, etc.

**Course 5**—Review of preceding points. Study of the purpose and nature of annuals, such as Statesman's yearbook, Hazell's annual, *Tribune*, *Daily news*, *World* and *Eagle* yearbooks, Annual literary index, with special reference to its yearly supplement of the Poole's and American library association indexes. City reports, State manuals or blue books, etc.

**Course 6**—Review of preceding points. Current publications, as indexed in the *Publishers' weekly*, and the Cumulative book index. Index of books in print, as given in the Publisher's trade list annual, and the last edition of the United States catalog of books in print; Munsell's genealogical index; Index to the laws of the states; Cyclopedias and dictionaries of special subjects; a word about our best encyclopedias, Kreuger; American library association's guide to the study and use of reference books. A. L. A. catalog of 8000v.

**Course 7**—A brief outline of the leading publications of the United States government, taken up by departments, and giving a few of their indexes and catalogs.

**Course 8**—A careful review of the entire subject, with selected reference questions covering the points illustrated in previous work.

FLORENCE M. HOPKINS, Lib'n.  
Central high school, Detroit, Mich.

Librarians of small libraries everywhere will find it very profitable to read *Notes from the art section of a library*, with hints on selection and buying, by C. A. Cutter, and just published by the A. L. A. publishing board. Price 5 cents single copy.

## Methods of Securing Better Reading\*

Bessie Sargeant Smith, librarian, Dubuque, Ia.

Better reading is our problem today. Not how shall we get more people to read more books—but how shall we get more people to become better people by reading better books. How shall we raise the grade of reading? We can't say we do not care for the kind of books people read because it is for just that we care most. If we care for something we work for it. So let us look at a few ways of working toward this end. How can we make people want to read the better books that are only waiting for the readers to find out what a goodly company they are? We want our friends to know this company, to look to us for help in choosing from it those they would know better, to get the best from them when they do know them and to get it in the easiest way. And above all to get it naturally, by suggestion, by cooperation, by extended privileges, by attraction. We feel sure the better reading is coming in time. How shall we shorten the time?

The first step in acquaintance is introduction, so we send lists of would-be-known books to the newspapers. We advertise. The local papers are usually more than willing to print all lists sent, even in some places sending reporters to the library regularly after lists and those news items a reporter's eye often finds growing on the barrenest of fig trees. At first it is wisest to send only lists of the recent purchases, until by degrees the patrons of the library learn to look in the papers for books to read. These lists should never be dropped, but in time should be broadened to include gradually special lists on subjects suggested by the season, or happenings at St Petersburg or in Wisconsin.

The lists should bear special reference to matters of local interest, such as the subject of a university extension lecture that the people may be informed in advance or after, as they choose. Often the inquiries of the readers we are try-

\*Read before the Wisconsin library association, at Beloit, Feb. 22, 1905.

ing to help will be of the very greatest assistance in adding to the published lists, for what interests one may another. If the boy in one house goes fishing the boy in the next house is sure to take down his tackle. And you know we all travel in caravans through China or Japan as the seat of war is moved. There can be no definite rule as to the frequency with which lists should appear, for so much depends on circumstances, except that the oftener they are sent to the papers the better. If you can do this once a week you will be well repaid. The more you advertise the more you find advertising pays. Make your lists short if necessary but keep them before the community. Sometimes the librarian of the small library hesitates to send lists to the papers because there seems to be little material. But that is the royal time for annotations. A list of six titles may be made very helpful by its annotations. It is advantageous to keep such lists for reference, mounted on cardboard or in some convenient form. In our library we keep our lists arranged alphabetically in our little reference catalog of lists.

But more important than the names are the books themselves. We can read of people in the papers but when we have seen them we know far more about them. By all means have some place where the best books may be put so that they are accessible. A slanting rack is best but not always available. In our library we have a few shelves for books on special lists and others we place on our large octagonal delivery desk. Every morning someone picks out a number of books from the general shelves for this desk, taking care to have them in attractive bindings. It is gratifying to note the influence the selection has upon the reading of particular books. We hear much nowadays of the power of suggestion; is not this a justifiable use of it?

Then from time to time draw attention by exhibits of all books you have on one subject or another likely to arouse interest. When possible buy duplicate copies in pleasing bindings. Directly

in line is a picture exhibit. Even half a dozen good copies of masterpieces lent by friends, together with all the material you have on the pictures and the artists, can be made very attractive.

But after all nothing creates keener interest than the productions of our own day and dooryard. An exhibit of work done by the school children out of school hours will bring people to the library, parents notably, who have never been inside the doors. And in this connection you will find an admirable opening for a published book list on handicraft. A natural result is an increased interest in the Arts and crafts movement. So all strings pull together and we have a longer and stronger pull.

In many of the small towns, as is well understood, libraries owe their very inception to the women's clubs, and the suggestion that the two cooperate seems superfluous. But good is the first step to best, so we do not mind saying that we are sure more good could be done by the clubs if the libraries gave them more assistance. The library should keep in touch with the work and aims of all the clubs and should keep abreast of their programs with lists, posted or published, of books bearing on the subjects to be studied. When the clubs need books not in the library, they should as far as possible be bought and kept on special shelves set aside for the use of the members. Other manifestations of the working-together spirit will follow if the spirit is strong, as it should be between such close allies.

Bulletin boards have received so much attention from librarians and have been shown in so many artistic guises, that the librarian of small resources may well be excused for hesitating about making them. But even a small one is of much value. It is often not possible to purchase a paper for the special purpose, but almost always there is someone who will donate papers that have been read and be glad of the chance to help the bulletin board. On it put not only new items, but reading lists, references to good articles in current magazines, and brief biographical

sketches of noted persons who have recently died, with photographs if they are to be had. We may use anything of interest or value in bringing about the better reading that is one of the aims of the bulletin board because it is part of the library. The spice of variety belongs particularly to this department, so we find it natural to change our bulletin board constantly and to keep it up to date.

Today many of our libraries issue special cards to teachers, by means of which any reasonable number of books for study may be drawn at one time. Why, not try giving this privilege to other students? No doubt they would be glad to avail themselves of it. At least let us break down the old two-book barrier and allow those who are really studying, much freedom in the use of their material. Rules we need but not barriers. If we would fulfill our brightest aims we must give the impression of freedom and breadth, not that we exist for rules. So let us reduce them to the simplest form and smallest number possible.

But alas! extending privileges to students does not help us in dealing with the great problem of the reading of fiction. It is persistently demanded. How shall we meet the demand, the legitimate and healthful demand? We must, of course, buy carefully, slowly too, the best books and then duplicate. Duplicate the standards especially. No matter if you have a complete set of Dickens if it is old and unattractive. It is much better to buy a new edition. It will pay when the better readings dividends come in. Librarians are tempted to allow our standard friends to appear in cheap bindings. This seems to me a grave mistake. The look of a book has much to do with the attitude of a person toward it.

We know, we have known all the time, that appearances and other forms of advertising, pulling together, and breaking down the barriers, are only steps in the way, they are not the way itself. We may have all these and still miss something we would have. Our library

is a machine, well oiled, with all the levers in working order, but the power is not applied. This is the librarian's duty-privilege. How is it done? By first, last, and in every spare moment reading. By growing in the book knowledge that is not a mushroom growth, that can not be imitated. A true librarian cares, cares more and more, longs more and more to know her own books—inside. Knowledge of organization is needful, yes, but to it must be added that sweet love of books for their own sakes which makes its own happy atmosphere, of which we need, perhaps more rightly, can not speak here. In this atmosphere you offer a book to a reader with a feeling on both sides of the desk of a new understanding, of something other than the old business of it. The act may hold, if you will, a meaning—a bit of the soul of things.

### Subject Groups for Illustrated Works

The question was asked at a meeting of the Chicago library club: Could any scheme be devised to include the Science numbers in the Art, in order better to use the illustrations? how could expansion be managed?

Speaking generally, it is unadvisable to mix different classes in a classification; if it is desired to bring out special features of certain books it is better to place a subject card under that topic in the catalog, referring to the book or to allied topics. This is advisable for general libraries from the fact that special uses found for a book, or the special interest which the book has at any given time, may change as time goes on, and then the work has to be done over again; while a catalog reference or subject entry holds good always.

The needs of a special art library are doubtless more stable than those of a general library, however, and if certain features—such as illustrations occurring in scientific books that have no other use in the library—are to be brought out in the classification itself, this end may be accomplished in two ways.

The first way, which is rather crude, is to class all books, whatever may be their subject matter, under that art topic to which their illustrations bear relation. For example, a work on geology illustrated with halftones may be placed with works on the technical processes of making halftones from photographs. A note should be made in the shelf-list entry referring to the illustrations.

A second and better way is to provide, under each art topic in the scheme of classification, for a group of books illustrated by a special process or bearing a certain relation to that topic; in other words, to consider these books solely from the point of view of their illustrations and to make a little group to fit it, arranging the books alphabetically by authors within that group. Thus, a set of illustrations made by any one technical process, no matter what may be the subject matter of the book, would be placed in a little group next to the works on that process. Works on trees or flowers would go with landscape photography, etching or possibly painting, as the case might be; while colored plates of birds or animals might be useful with art anatomy, or the painting of animals. The quality of work done upon the illustrations should determine whether these illustrations are more valuable for the process or for the subject illustrated.

As to expansion, that is provided for by assigning a new number to each group, bringing it next to the topic which it illustrates, and making corresponding entries in the index of the classification. If integral numbers are used to number the classes, use a letter a, b, c with the class number of the topic, but not i or o, for these will be confused with the figures 1 and 0. Decimal class numbers admit of indefinite interpolation.

The questions asked referred to art only, but the method suggested would be applicable to any special library, whether historical or literary, possessing illustrated scientific works which they wish to place to the best advantage for their own purposes. In other words, the scientific illustrations would be

treated from the point of view of their historical or literary value, the latter aspect being, of course, rather remote, but not irrelevant by any means. An illustrated work on the natural features of a locality in which an author was reared or in which he lives while writing his books, throws a side light upon his work; while local natural history may be considered an integral part of any complete collection dealing historically with a city or locality.

WM. STETSON MERRILL.

Newberry library, Chicago.

### The State Library Commission of Maryland

#### EDITOR OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

On page 138 of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, I find the following statement: The State library commission of Maryland devotes itself to traveling libraries alone, and desire to call your attention to the fact that our activities are by no means limited to the circulation of traveling libraries. Two public libraries were established in the state through the commission's efforts last year, and at present we are actively engaged in trying to establish such libraries in half a dozen other towns in Maryland. We sent out, at the beginning of February, a field secretary and library organizer who, to the best of my knowledge, is the first person who has ever carried on such work in a state south of Mason and Dixon's line. We collect information in regard to the libraries of the state, and the appendix to our last annual report gives more information than can be found in any other publication on the subject. We give advice and counsel to the few public libraries which have been established in the towns of the state. If you will be good enough to call attention to these other activities of ours, we shall be obliged to you.

BERNARD C. STEINER, Sec.

The statement referred to by Dr Steiner was sent in as a correction, by a Maryland librarian, of the previous statement on page 84, which is essentially the same as the above.

### Student Privileges Allowed in Public Libraries

Miss Humphrey's statement in the December PUBLIC LIBRARIES concerning privileges allowed patrons of the Lansing public library in the circulation of non-fiction, has suggested to me that perhaps librarians would be interested to know of a similar plan in use in the Institute free library of Wilmington, Del. Any adult may borrow any number of non-fiction works up to the number of 100. Many borrowers avail themselves of the privilege, but few take more than four or five volumes, and these are almost always on one subject.

In addition to this privilege, we allow any person pursuing a special line of study to keep books for an indefinite period of time, provided that he gives notice to that effect at the time of borrowing. A record of such notice is made so that no fine notice is sent, and the book is renewed indefinitely. The books are subject to recall after four weeks. This plan has been in force for several months and works very satisfactorily both to the library and its readers.

ARTHUR L. BAILEY, Lib'n.

### Removal of Time Limit

Miss Hopkins, librarian of Public library, Madison, Wis., writing of some of their work there has this to say of loaning non-fiction books:

We have removed all restrictions from the circulation of non-fiction books. Any reader can take as many books of non-fiction at a time as he pleases. He can also renew them for a period of two weeks as many times as he wishes to. This enables him, practically, to keep the book as long as he needs it, and yet by the process of renewal our hands are on it. And, of course, it is understood that if another person needs the book, it can be called in at once when the first man has had it more than a month. The rule has not been in operation yet long enough for people to know of it generally, but those who do know of it make great use of it, and are profuse in their expressions of delight and appreciation.

### Recent Copyright Legislation

The bill relating to copyright of books in foreign language recently passed by congress provides that the owner or author of a book in a foreign language published in a foreign country before the day of publication in this country may deposit a copy of the same in the Library of congress within 30 days after publication in a foreign country, and then shall have a full copyright if within 12 months after the first publication in a foreign country a publication of the original or a translation is made in this country from type set within the limits of the United States or from plates made therefrom. This copyright is exclusive for the time of 28 years.

The copyright department of the Library of congress has issued a pamphlet giving full details.

### An Effort Toward Clean Cards

A simple experiment, but one which is producing good results, has been tried during the past year in the juvenile department of the Springfield (Mass.) city library, where the subject of clean hands, clean cards and, by no means least, clean books, is constantly recurring. At odd moments in the past the person in charge of this department has mounted upon pieces of cardboard pictures of animals, child life, little bits of nature, etc., in fact, anything that is good and appeals to children. Whenever a new card is issued the necessity as well as the desirability of keeping it clean is dwelt upon; and every child who after filling one side of his card can show it in good condition is given a choice of these pictures. The deliberation and eager interest with which the selection is made is often amusing. As a result clean cards are now the rule where once they were something of an exception, and some of the little folks are learning a valuable lesson.—*Springfield Republican*.



## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - - -	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

**Experts in the book trade**—Some of the expert help for which it is necessary to pay so handsomely that there is no room to allow libraries the ordinary discount usually given to similar large buyers who are in trade, is illustrated by such not infrequent choice bits as the following from a large library in Massachusetts:

Two of Shakespeare's works were ordered and the bill from the bookdealer charged us for "Pericles" and "Venice and doughnuts." The latter was intended for Venus and Adonis.

**Equality in salaries**—A schedule of salaries in a certain public library has just been issued and it seems to contain food for thought. What is the range of duties allotted in an institution where the ability to perform these duties is ranked in the degrees indicated by the following salaries: Librarian, \$1200; first assistant, \$400; (Is that equal?) second assistant, \$375; office boy, \$240 (more than half the salary of the first assistant librarian)! janitor, \$400—just the salary of the first assistant.

It is a self-evident fact that the ability of a library is marked high or low according to the recognition shown by officers of the library to the members of its staff not only in salaries but in giving credit for service in making reports.

**The problem of dirty books in the library**—The *Toronto News* makes the following comment upon the ancient difficulty of what to do with dirty books in circulating libraries, a comment which may well be commended for its admirable common sense:

A good deal is said about the nuisance of dirty books in circulating libraries. The remedy is a

very simple one. It is to discontinue the practice of rebinding books that have been worn out by circulation. As a rule, when the binding is worn out, the book is too dirty to use, or will become so in the lifetime of a fresh binding. Exception could be made in the case of works of exceptional value, or of bindings that have been ill-used or destroyed by accident. But the filthy book is usually a popular novel which could be replaced at a cost not much greater than that of a fresh binding. Worn-out novels should be burned or given away, though the latter course might be a doubtful sort of beneficence.

**The buying booklist for libraries**—The first issue of the A. L. A. booklist has been received. It is the coöperative work of a number of librarians under direction of the A. L. A. publishing board and edited by Caroline H. Garland, librarian of Dover, N. H.

Notwithstanding the preface says the number was compiled under difficulties, the result may be said to be very satisfactory. The list is evidently meant to include items for all kinds of libraries and the spirit of the inclusion is good.

The various prices are indicated and a very helpful feature for the small libraries are the class numbers, suggested subject headings and the information concerning the Library of congress cards.

The notes are of varying kinds as the result, no doubt, of the coöperative plan.

The start on this booklist is a good one and it should receive the support of the libraries of the country to an encouraging degree. The price is 50 cents a year for eight numbers, a price that puts the list within the reach of all.

**A new work on cataloging**—There is now in the hands of the printer the manuscript of a new revised and enlarged edition of Esther Crawford's manual on cataloging. The former edition has been one of the most popular little books that has been issued on technical library methods. Its publication at first was merely the result of a desire on the part of a few persons to extend the opportunity to gather its message to a greater number of persons than heard it read at a meeting of the Ohio library association in 1899. It sprang into favor at once, and so large was the demand for it that it had to be reprinted twice, and it has been out of print some

time. Miss Crawford has been so busy since in her work in Dayton and Cleveland that only recently has she found time to prepare a second edition of this work brought up to date and embodying many points which experience since the first edition was published has marked as essential.

The material in this present edition is gathered from actual experience in studying the problems of the small library, and is treated in a broad way, well calculated to be helpful to those interested in library work.

While the body of the work is devoted to the subject of cataloging, related subjects in library economy are treated in a clear, concise manner that will be extremely helpful to those not engaged in the particular subject of cataloging, and the observations on library administration are lucid, sympathetic and timely.

A small pamphlet has been published by the Newark free public library giving information about the book binding exhibition held in the library building in February.

In this Mr Dana gives some explanatory notes concerning book binding from which the following is an extract:

The bindings which are put on books when they are published are usually light and fragile, and soon break or wear out. The leaves, the books proper, must then be rebound. The Newark library annually spends about \$3000 in this remaking of books and in the binding of pamphlets, and of magazines into volumes.

In every library in this country which is over 30 years old and has been re-binding for 20 years, there are many volumes, rising often into the thousands, the leather on which is crumbling into dust.

Books can be well and strongly bound by machinery. No hand-bound book can excel in strength and durability the best machine work. But machine binding may be poorly done, and usually is. This is inevitable. We must have cheap books, and should be thankful that the

inventor and the publisher can make a cloth-bound book, which is convenient, readable, and even reputable in appearance, which he can sell us for 10 cents or even 5.

But the machine will never fill the wants of the amateur of books. Beautifully toned leather, exquisite tooling, perfect workmanship and finish at every point, harmony of color, adjustment of leather and decoration to contents, these can only be secured at the hands of the skilled and patient artisan. The art is an old one. It has enlisted many of the best craftsmen and some of the best decorative artists ever known. It is cultivated in this country by few, and patronized by few. It should have more followers and more, and more liberal patrons. For lack of a better phrase we call it fine binding.

In recent years many persons, chiefly women, have taken up binding as an occupation for leisure hours or as a serious calling. It is very attractive work. It may be proper to give my own conclusions, formed after about 12 years of observation, as to the time it will take the ordinary person to learn to bind. I would say that the average person can learn in a few days to put a book together, and to do it so that it will hold and be serviceable. In a few months she can learn to make something that will look, save for the lettering, a little like a bound book. To acquire the knowledge, experience, skill and power of design necessary to bind in full leather and properly to decorate some of the books which may come to her hands will require from three to six years of continuous application. She will then be on the way toward ability to bind. But if she have not native skill of hand and some feeling for design she never can become a fine binder. There are no prizes in the profession, yet the demand for the best binding is fairly good and constantly grows. It will be strange if within the next few years many young women do not take up this delightful calling as their life work.

### A Helpful State of Mind\*

J. C. Dana, Public library, Newark, N. J.

Before taking up my appointed subject of The reading-room, I wish to speak briefly of one of the qualifications of a librarian. For purposes of emphasis I will say that today this qualification, this state of mind, rather, of which I shall speak is more important than all others. This I say without denying the very great importance of some of those others. I will even admit that each in its turn, as needs and moods change, seems the most important one.

Scholarship, or to put it more modestly and in the more common library form, knowledge of books, the lack of this often seems a positive bar to general efficiency, to all-round helpfulness, for which the possession of no other quality can compensate. Not to know books, the old and the new, the best and the poor but popular; not to know the journals, English and American; not to know things done yesterday from laboratory to pulpit and from Kamchatka to Peru, this adds so much to the labor of the day, cuts short so many lines of work, demands so much time in the teaching and the learning of what one should have always with him, all orderly and handy in his head, that one is pardoned if he sometimes says to himself, Go to, forsake all else and—learn something.

Then there is personal presence, address, manners. This has done much to carry many a man well to the front. This makes of much learning simply an added charm and even helps to veil the lack if the learning be wanting. This all save the strongest must have, and he who has it, however strong he be, is thereby stronger still. It banishes officialism. It gives distinction. It makes the visitor think your red tape but an admirable decoration and your rule a beatitude. Without it your library is a library; with it your library is a home. Can anything be more helpful?

Then there is neatness. Not order, the

daughter of the text-book and the rule, but that skill in placing which keeps all things convenient, but only the pleasant things obvious; which teaches the waste paper basket modesty, and gives new books a proper pride. This is good. And so is exactness, accuracy. And so is command of English in speech and in writing, and the latter is more worthy of time and thought than some have made it.

Success is impossible without a thorough knowledge of the technique of our business. From pastepot to catalog and from paper knife to discounts, these things must be known and must be learned afresh each day, for with each day they change. Nor is it enough to know the details of one library in its current practice. Acquaintance with the numberless devices, plans and methods of other libraries and of former years is necessary to prevent a constant loss of energy in experiments already tried and found wanting.

All these things, qualities and knowledges are essential—how essential you will know better in 10 years than you can possibly know today. But the mental quality I wish today to put first is in a measure the master of them all, and I call it bibliothecal skepticism. You may name it, if you wish, openness of mind, plasticity, adaptibility, the habit of inquiry, doubt. I like very well my name for it. Let me try to tell you briefly why I think it important.

We are in an age of specializing. The librarian is a specialist. The field of library work is rapidly subdividing into small areas each giving ample scope for a specialty of its own. Books and knowledge of books are both old. But the manipulation of books in public libraries, as we in this country manipulate them, is new. Librarianship as a calling, as we understand the term today, was not mapped out, even roughly, 30 years ago. This new calling is dependent for its success in good measure on the acquisition of a certain technical skill. This skill can be acquired, superficially, but thoroughly enough to make a good showing, in a comparatively

\*Notes of part of a talk to the students of Pratt institute library school.



short time. As a result of these conditions we have very naturally shown a tendency to formulate the principles and methods we have found to work well in these first few years of trial into a fairly definite system of library doctrine which we put in practice in our libraries and teach in our schools. I say this has been a natural course to follow. One can put it more strongly and say it was the inevitable one. It is followed in the development of any new trade, industry, profession or science. The opening years are the formulating years, the years of dogma, gospel and apostle. Moreover, it is a helpful course. It is probably largely to this tendency to set down, formulate, and propagate rules, that we owe, under a resulting likeness of practice, the rapid progress library work has made in this country in the past 25 years. But now this is to be said that after a new undertaking, a new social institution, is well under way its greatest peril lies in self-content. It gets half its growth and thinks itself of full stature. It finds the work it does is excellent and thinks it is doing all its work. It gets results by its methods and thinks there are no other methods. In the day of its youth it suddenly takes on the repose of old age. Meanwhile, in fact, the new institution has only begun to find itself. It has hardly begun to live. It does not know its own world or its own power and place in it. It needs to search tirelessly for the new, to question at every point, to try all things, to doubt; to cultivate, in a word, bibliothecal skepticism.

There is another thing to be said of our own peculiar case. Librarians are especially subject to the troublesome disease of satisfacto-conformitum for two reasons. First, we are inclined to bookishness. If we were not we would not—for the most of us, at least, this is true—be in the business. If we did not like the pleasures of books more than some other things we would devote ourselves to more profitable things than the care of libraries. And bookish people are not the best people in the world to develop an institution. We have a

tendency—it is useless to deny it—born of the very task that keeps us here, to accept things as they are, the method that has served, the plan that has worked. We are not naturally and generally looking for revolutions. In the second place, we are not in a business which is subject to keen competition. We do not have the constant incentive to change and improve all our methods which presses on the business world. We contend among ourselves, as we should, but our contention is not vital. We can do just fairly well, and still survive. The business enterprise must do better; it must move, advance, change, and that constantly, or go under.

To us, then, in a work which is new, and largely still unexplored; in which at present technique counts for much and tends, consequently, to formulate itself into doctrines; in which the workers tend more toward bookishness than initiative; and in which the incentive of a fierce competition is wanting; to us in this work one may well say, cultivate the open and inquiring spirit and develop bibliothecal skepticism.

J. D. Brown of England has just published a good book on library economy. He is a successful librarian, one worth listening to. In his preface he says that in America the "paralyzing hand of uniformity has arrested progress." We think this is not true; but let us make sure it is not.

#### National Association State Libraries Proceedings for 1904

Anne G. Hubbard, on account of her absence from the country, has resigned her position as secretary of the National association of state librarians. Minnie M. Oakley of Wisconsin historical society has consented to serve as secretary till the next meeting of the association. Miss Oakley is seeing through the press the proceedings of the St Louis meeting, which will be ready for distribution shortly. All orders for these should be sent to M. M. Oakley, Madison, Wis.

## Book Buying

## No. 13

## Bulletins of the A. L. A. committee on book buying

## No. 12

Here are books published a little over a year ago, and now exempt from the rules regarding discount. Look in *Publishers' weekly* for others.

Cambridge mod. hist. vol. 2. Reformation. \$4. Macm.

Austin. Steps in expansion of our territory. \$1.25 App.

Bateson. Mediaeval England. \$1.35. Putnam.

Day. Policy, etc. of Dutch in Java. \$2. Macm.

Gosse. Jeremy Taylor. 75c. Macm.

Paul. History of modern England. Vols. 1 and 2. \$2.50 each. Macm.

Wright. Heart of nature series. 1st, 2d, 3rd readers. 30c each. Macm.

Barrett. Abraham Lincoln. 2v. \$5. Clark.

Bradford. Angler's secret. \$1. Putnam.

Scott. In famine land. \$2.50. Harp. Feb. 20.

Leupp. Man Roosevelt. \$1. App.

McClellan. Oligarchy of Venice. \$1.25. H. M. & Co.

Fiske. Modern bank. \$1.50. App. Feb. 27.

Kufferath. Parsifal of Wagner. \$1.50 Holt.

Roberts. Anthracite coal communities. \$3.50. Macm.

Streeter. Fat of the land. \$1.50. Macm.

Johnston. Napoleon. Barnes. \$1.

Shaler. The citizen. \$1.40. Barnes.

Miller. With the birds in Maine. \$1.10. H. M. & Co.

Mateer. Siege days. \$1.25. Revell.

Gordy. Political history of the U. S. 2v. \$1.75 each. Holt.

De Windt. From Paris to New York by land. \$3. Warne.

Lounsbury. Standard of pronunciation in English. \$1.50. Harp.

Rainsford. Preacher's story of his work. \$1.25. Outlook.

Seager. Introduction to economics. \$2. Holt.

Talbot. Samuel C. Armstrong. \$1.50. Doub.

Elwell. Advanced bridge. \$1.50. Scrib.

Lawton. Introduction to classical Latin. \$1.20. Scrib.

McFayden. Messages of the Psalmists. \$1.25. Scrib.

Huneker. Overtones. \$1.25. Scrib.

Briggs. New lights on the life of Jesus. \$1.20. Scrib.

Fletcher & Bowker. Ann. lit. index, '03. Pub. Wkly. \$3.50.

Riis. Theodore Roosevelt. \$2. Outlook.

Villard. Memoirs. \$5. 2v. H. M. & Co.

The profit the net system enables booksellers to make on net books is so great that some now supply non-net books at cost, looking to net books for profit. Of course no bookseller will do this unless assured of a stated proportion of net orders. It may be to a library's advantage to buy some net books rather than none at all. See your bookseller about this.

In the No. Amer. Rev. January, '05, Mark Twain advocates the abolition of the "crime" of the 42-year limit to copyright. To insure the issue of cheap editions of books, which he says is the object of the limit, he proposes that the copyrightee be obliged to issue such an edition during the 42nd year of his copyright and to keep it thereafter on sale under penalty of losing the copyright. This is of interest to book buyers on account of the price at which Mr Clemens would require the cheap edition to be sold, namely, "25 cents for each 100,000 words or less." At this price he asserts that the publisher and the author's orphans would "live on canvasback duck and Cape Cod oysters," and he says he speaks from knowledge and experience, and is amply able to prove his thesis. He adds, "I know what it costs to make a book and what it costs to sell it." This being the case, the following table is of interest. It can easily be extended by anyone. The books have been selected quite at random.

Author	Title	No. words	M. Twain's price	Pres. net price
Conway	—Autobiography	335,000	\$1.00	\$6.00
James	—Golden bowl	245,000	.75	2.50
Kelly	—Little citizens	88,000	.25	1.50
Howells	—Son of royal Langbrith	118,000	.50	2.00
Rogers	—True Henry Clay	132,000	.50	2.00
Frazer	—Letters from Japan	234,000	.75	3.00

The law requiring libs. to get consent of owner of Amer. copyright before importing would if passed, in some cases, make it impossible to buy a book at all for months or years after publication in England; for the American publisher sometimes gets his copyright by serial publication only and then defers book publication for months.

Send to this com. titles of books wanted and now o. p.; also titles of books wanted and not yet written.

The Wilson Co., Minneapolis, plan to pub. a Cumulative Book review digest. Send for circular. The Digest will reprint parts of reviews of books from 40 journals. The A. L. A. pub. board's Book list will print original criticisms furnished by cooperating librarians.

Recent interesting secondhand catalogs:

McLean & Co., 430 6th av., N. Y. City. (Clearance list No. 10, Dec., '04; 50 per cent discount.)

Edwards, 83 High st., Marylebone, London, W. (No. 275.)

Cadby, 64 Hamilton st., Albany, N. Y. (No. 88, Americana.)

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, Chairman, N. Y. P. L., 225 West 42nd st.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, Md.

## Some Important Books of 1904\*

M. D. Bisbee, librarian of Dartmouth college

## Reference works

- Adams, Dictionary of the drama.
- A. L. A. catalog.
- Cutter, Rules, new ed.
- Granger, Index to poetry and recitations.
- International cyclopedia, completed.
- Scientific American reference book

## Fine arts

- Caffin, American masters of sculpture.
- Clement, Women in the fine arts.
- Elson, Modern composers of Europe.
- , History of American music.
- Huneker, Overtones.

## Biography

- Brastow, Representative modern preachers.
- Great Englishmen of the sixteenth century.
- Pearson, Life of John A. Andrew.
- Talbot, Life of Gen. Armstrong.
- Bancroft, Mrs, Letters from England.
- Howe, Laura Bridgman.
- Burne Jones, Memorials.
- Carlyle, New letters.
- Conway, Autobiography.
- Lawless, Maria Edgeworth.
- Montalembert, Elizabeth of Hungary.
- Farrar, R. A., Life of F. W. Farrar.
- Stephen, Hobbes.
- Brock, Life of Robert E. Lee.
- Paine, Thomas Nast.
- Sedgwick, Parkman.
- Ogden, Prescott.
- Benson, Rossetti.
- Norton, Letters of John Ruskin.
- Rolfe, Life of Shakespeare.
- Gosse, Jeremy Taylor.
- Fields, C. D. Warner.

## Poetry

- Moody, Fire bringer.
- Phillips, Sin of David.

## Religion

- Gladden, Where does the sky begin?
- Julicher, Introduction to the New Testament.
- Kent, Student's Old Testament.

## Essays

- Black, Self-culture.
- Munger, Essays for the day.
- Torry, Nature's invitation.

## History

- Asakawa, Japan.
- Bradley, Canada in nineteenth century.
- Bryce, Holy Roman empire (revised).
- Colquhoun, Greater America.
- Hewlett, Road in Tuscany.
- Lang, History of Scotland.
- Munsterberg, Amerikaner.
- Osgood, American colonies in seventeenth century.
- Rhodes, History of the United States, V.
- Schierbrand, Russia; America, Asia and the Pacific.

## Economics

- Moody, Truths about trusts.

## Library Ethics\*

Genevieve M. Walten, librarian, State normal college, Ypsilanti, Mich.

I wish it understood that what I have to say is wholly interrogatory—I am seeking light. A few days ago, Dr Putnam, who examines daily the new books, and always casts some illuminating thought behind as he replaces them, had been leafing over *Etiquette* for all occasions, and returning it to the shelf, quietly remarked: I find nothing regarding the *Etiquette* of the school—or—for the library. This brought to mind a paper I remembered reading with much interest several years ago in *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* on the *Ethics* of the college library (4: 421), and I decided it would be well to be more academically conversant with the subject which, in my work, is so constantly presenting its practical problem.

I turned to the Index of the *Library journal* in a sure faith that I would find some systematic setting forth of the code of Library ethics—but the word did not appear. Poole's index served no better. Under *Ethics* I found everything from Mosaic law to Laughter and Triple standard, except *Libraries*; and under *Library* I was no more successful, though I found systems of every other kind, from classification to bicycles. I turned finally to *Librarians*, where again column after column noted all sorts and conditions of information on rules, requirements and ideals, until I was convinced that a worthy librarian must embody as the Triple standard, enumerated under *Ethics*, the patience of Job, the "all things to all men" of St Paul, and the learning of St Catherine of Alexandria—but the Ethical basis I still sought in vain.

Then I began anew to find what I thought I meant.

The first formula that suggested itself was a possible paraphrase of a recent definition of conventionalities: "convention, which is only common sense deposited for long periods upon the reluctant mind of our species," but the

\*Prepared for N. H. library association meeting Jan. 26.

\*Read before Michigan library association, May 27 1904.

profession of librarianship has not yet existed for long periods and so, possibly, is too young for a spiritualized version of convention which might spell ethics.

Next I turned to the Church catechism and read "my duty to my neighbor," where I noted particularly two injunctions: that of "ordering myself reverently to my superiors" and "to do my duty in that state of life into which it shall please God to call me." Still another formula presented itself, "elevating the avocation to the sacred dignity of a vocation."

The word ethics has of late been rather variously, and often lightly used; used as synonymous with etiquette, for instance, and although in concrete examples this may possibly carry, in its fullest meaning it certainly has a sterner, a loftier and a more gracious spirit.

What then are some of the relations in which the librarian is placed, which should be governed by underlying ethical principles?

1 The relation of librarian to fellow librarian.

2 The relation of librarian to official superior under whom he serves, depending on the character of the library, if college, state or public, and covering, too, the relation of the library assistant to the head librarian. The relation of the librarian to his co-workers, whether assistants, teachers, or janitors.

3 The relation of the librarian to the public (which in a school library means the student body).

Each relation is at least twofold, and must be regarded from different points of view.

Taking the first, we have the librarian in the semi-social relation of host or guest to his fellow librarian, and in strict business relations. For the first, I think there is no profession in which such generosity of time, interest, and hospitality marks the personal intercourse as in our own. I sometimes wonder if in this particular, as in the whole subject under discussion, we are not constantly influenced by our periodically reading in the *Publishers' Weekly* the sentence from Bacon, on the editor-

ial page, I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto.

For myself, such has been the uniform kindness received from my fellow librarians, from whom I have constantly sought help, that I have always felt they were seeking to make those "amends thereunto" through me.

The second heading presents the librarian in his relation to his official superior, and here I would quote the sentence from the catechism, "to order myself reverently to all my betters," qualifying the command by the exhortation of St Paul, Children, obey your parents, and its seldom-quoted counterpart, Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath.

Our attitude to our superiors is a strong indication of our attitude to our subordinates, and in each it were to be devoutly hoped that there were always worthy cause for that old-fashioned virtue of reverence. One of the greatest women it has been my privilege to know, who was at the head of a great institution and in a position of responsibility and trust, remarked to me one day, I have learned to obey, therefore I can direct and control.

The third point is that of contact with co-workers, which I have classed as assistants, teachers, and janitors.

With the first, our assistants, I would plead for principles rather than rules, as in all rules that they be kept according to the spirit, rather than the letter; in fact is not that pretty near what ethics means—"a spiritualized letter"?

With the second, teachers—well, we all have troubles of our own. I believe it was Drummond, in his *Greatest thing in the world*, who advised us to learn better that most difficult task in life, of getting on better with our equals.

And the janitors. I read of a case recently that solved some of the difficulties. A gentleman stopped at a library early one morning and found a

red-headed, red-shirted janitor sweep-out. "When will the librarian be in?" "At nine o'clock." Returning later, the gentleman found the sometime janitor at the librarian's desk. "When will the librarian be in?" he again asked. "He's in now." "Where is he?" "I am he," was the reply of this double official. Certainly the ethical relations were delightfully simplified.

Finally we come to the consideration of the librarian and his public. But to consider the ethics of the former without the reflex action of the latter, were utterly futile. Miss Dural, in the article already alluded to on College library ethics, assumes that the librarian's attitude is satisfactory, and summarizes the influences that are to be brought to bear on the student as best culminating in the three virtues of order, honor and punctuality, as comprising his system of ethics. I would consider them equally necessary for the librarian.

The public librarian meets a public which in many ways is a stranger to me, but, different as our practical problems may be, we certainly meet on common ground in the consideration of our present subject, for professional ethics are based on a consideration of the rights of others, and as ethics is sometimes defined as the science of ideal humanity, so Library ethics is the science of ideal relations in our great and honorable profession.

### An Infringement on A. L. A.

A note from Miss Stearns, in charge of traveling libraries in Wisconsin, contains a card bearing the inscription:

CAPT. H. J. MEAGHER,

General Organizer and Manager  
American Library Association,  
Chicago, Ill.

Miss Stearns states that he secures subscriptions at \$1 a year for books and then sends books worth about 10 cents apiece. If such a man is doing business in Chicago he does not let the matter appear in the directories of Chicago.

### Interesting Books for Both Girls and Boys

Compiled by the Newark (N. J.) public library

The habit of reading is much easier to implant than the habit of observation, because of the immense variety of, attractive books, and their accessibility. The good school should guide the child's reading from its earliest years, protecting it from rubbish and leading it into real literature; for as means of lifelong intellectual growth, and of defence or refuge from the inevitable ills of life, there is nothing better than good books, even although one's daily occupation leaves but a few minutes a day for reading. School and college can do nothing better for the rising generation than to implant this habit, and that public education which does not implant it on a great scale, has in good measure failed.  
—President Eliot of Harvard university.

The story of a bad boy, who liked fun and made friends. Aldrich.

The story of Roland and his song of French chivalry. Baldwin.

Story of Siegfried, the hero of the north. Baldwin.

Lorna Doone, and the adventures of big John Ridd, who loved her. Blackmore.

The prince and the pauper, who changed places and learned many things. Clemens.

The mill on the floss, the story of Maggie and Tom Tulliver. Cross.

Silas Marner, and his two treasures. Cross.

Boots and saddles, tenting on the Western prairies. Custer.

Two years before the mast, or life on the sea 100 years ago. Dana.

David Copperfield, from boyhood to manhood. Dickens.

Old curiosity shop, the story of little Nell and her grandfather. Dickens.

Soldier Rigdale, and some other boys in colonial days. Dix.

Hans Brinker, and the prize of the silver skates. Dodge.

Story of a short life, and a cheerful one. Ewing.

Jackanapes, and how he won Lollo. Ewing.

The story of the soldier, his pleasures and his hardships. Forsyth.

The biography of a prairie girl. Gates.

Brave little Holland, and her struggle for independence. Griffiths.

The wonder book for boys and girls; full of dragons, treasures, heroes and adventures. Hawthorne.

The book of the ocean, the wonders of the wide, wide sea. Ingersoll.

The water babies, of whom Tom was the chief. Kingsley.



The Greek heroes, the wonderful adventures of Perseus, Theseus, etc. Kingsley.  
 The jungle book, the wolf-child and his forest friends. Kipling.  
 The blue poetry book. Lang.  
 Undine, the water-maiden. La Motte-Fouque.  
 Sintram, and his battles. La Motte-Fouque.  
 The story of the trapper, how he lived, and what he caught, and where and how. Laut.  
 The boy's King Arthur, which tells of the best of all brave knights. Malory.  
 Typee; adventures in the South Pacific years ago. Melville.  
 Careers of danger and daring; the story of the fireman, the steeple-climber, the engineer, and other brave men. Moffat.  
 Heroic ballads, Horatius, who held the bridge against an army, and others like him. Montgomery.  
 Stories of old France; Joan of Arc, the girl general, and other strange tales. Pitman.  
 Adventures of Marco Polo, who was the first to tell of the wonders of the far east. Polo.  
 Men of iron, Miles Falworth's training as a knight. Pyle.  
 Merry adventures of Robin Hood, and his merry men in Sherwood forest. Pyle.  
 Book of famous verse. Repplier.  
 King of the golden river, a tale of a good man and his two bad brothers. Ruskin.  
 Picciola; a prisoner and his flower-comforter. Saintine.  
 Ivanhoe; a story of Richard the lion-hearted and bold Robin Hood. Scott.  
 Treasure island, the story of great treasure, many bad men, and a few good ones. Stevenson.  
 Gulliver's travels in the land of pygmies and giants. Swift.  
 England's story. Tappan.  
 Biography of a grizzly; the story of Wab. Two little savages. Thompson.  
 The wonderful century; what man has done in the last hundred years. Wallace.  
 Being a boy, and what fun it is. Warner.  
 Golden numbers; the kind of poems most of us like. Wiggin.  
 My dogs in the Northland and how clever and lovable they were. Young.

This list was distributed from the children's room and through the schools proving both popular and helpful.

The following lines are in a conspicuous place in the new children's room of the Hartford (Conn.) public library:

The goops they wet their fingers  
 To turn the leaves of books,  
 And then they crease the corners down  
 And think that no one looks.  
 They print the marks of dirty hands,  
 Of lollypops and gum  
 On picture-book and fairy-book  
 As often as they come.  
 Are you a goop???

## Recent Books of Interest

Reported by Newark (N. J.) public library in Newark Advertiser\*

**T. S. Adams and Helen C. Sumner. Labor problems.** \$1.50, net. Macmillan. A history of the American labor problem for the general reader. States the case clearly and concisely and gives remedies employed in labor troubles. The most recent book upon the subject.

**A. C. Benson. Rossetti.** \$1. Macmillan. A new life of the mystic poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti in the valuable English men of letters series edited by John Morley. Contains chapters upon Rossetti as a painter and his influence upon Burne-Jones and William Morris and his friendship for John Ruskin.

**Arthur Gray, Ed. Toasts and tributes.** \$1.25, net. Rohde. A handy book of toasts dealing with the social and domestic relations of life.

**C. R. Henderson. Modern methods of charity.** \$3.50, net. Macmillan. An account of the systems of relief, public and private, in the principal countries having modern methods. Certainly the best book upon the subject. Contains a good bibliography and has a full index.

**Lawrence Hutton. Literary landmarks of the Scottish universities.** \$1.25, net. Putnam. Interesting studies of the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and St Andrews, and the great men who made them famous. Lawrence Hutton's last book.

**Eden Phillpotts. The secret woman.** \$1.50. Macmillan. A powerful story of the human passions. Scene laid in the Devon he loves so well. The author's best novel.

**Edward Atkinson. Facts and figures; the basis of economic science.** \$1.50, net. Houghton. The author has made a complete analysis of the cost of a protective tariff, the cost of war and other economic problems which are now before the country.

**Edith Granger. An index to poetry and recitations.** \$5, net. McClurg. Author and title index of more than 30,000 titles. The first line index is one of the most important features of this invaluable reference book.

**E. P. Powell. The country home.** \$1.50, net. McClure. Full of practical suggestions concerning the selection of a site, water supply, drainage and buildings, drawn from long and successful experience.

**Edith Rickert. The reaper.** \$1.50. Houghton. This novel gives a realistic and poetic view of the people inhabiting the Shetland Islands.

**C. W. Sealeby. The cycle of life.** \$2, net. Hayser. A series of essays dealing with the bearing of the latest scientific discoveries on the problems of human life.

\*The Newark Advertiser makes a specialty of printing book and literary news.

## Library Schools

## University of Illinois

On the evening of February 17 the staff of the University library gave a second reception to the faculty and friends of the university. A feature of special interest was an exhibit of fine bindings loaned for the occasion by Miss Stiles, Mrs Chatfield-Taylor and Ringer and Hertzberg of Chicago. There was also an interesting display of amateur work done by members of the university faculty.

Gertrude Buck, '04, has been engaged as reviser during the cataloging term in the junior class.

Isabella Fyfe, ex '04, has leave of absence from the St Joseph (Mich.) public library and has returned to complete her senior work with the class of 1905.

The following is a list of changes of positions made by former students and graduates of the Illinois state library school since the report issued in June, 1903. As the list is too long for insertion in any one issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, with the permission of the editor it will be continued from time to time. Any omissions are due to a failure to respond to the letters of inquiry sent out from the director's office:

Wales, Elizabeth B., '94, librarian, Carthage (Mo.) public library, since September, 1904.

Gibbs, Laura R., '98, assistant to librarian, Radcliffe college library, January, 1904.

Kumli, Anna B., '98, cataloger, California state library, Sacramento, January, 1905.

Stern, Renée B., '98, reference librarian for the Chicago telephone offices, January, 1905.

Sparks, Marion E., '99, research bibliographer, Department of chemistry, University of Illinois, May, 1904.

Streight, Laura A., '99, librarian and secretary of Fredonia (N. Y.) normal school, September, 1904.

Branch, Elizabeth, '00, resigned assistant librarianship of Eastern Illinois normal school in June, 1904, and was married to Elmer I. Shepard of Williams college on July 5.

Haven, Georgetta, '00, granted leave of absence from Cincinnati (Ohio) public library in November, 1905, and is now traveling in Europe.

Sawyer, Ida E., '00, resigned her position of cataloger at Iowa university in June, 1904.

Shawhan, Gertrude, '00, resigned as library instructor at Emporia (Kan.) normal school, June, 1904, and married Frank A. Schaefer on June 29.

Wandell, Caroline, '00, librarian in charge of one of the branches of Brooklyn (N. Y.) public library, August, 1904.

West, Mabel G., '00, organized Flagg township library, Rochelle, Ill., during May and June, 1904, and Valley City (N. D.) Normal school library, September to December, 1904.

During February the Library school was fortunate in having had with them for a week Marie L. Shedlock, who gave six lectures upon the art of story-telling. Her subjects were: The fun and philosophy of Hans Christian Andersen; The poetry and pathos of Hans Christian Andersen; The art of story-telling; Elements to avoid in the subject matter of stories; Elements to seek in the subject matter of stories; Miscellaneous fairy tales. She brought to the school many helpful suggestions for work with children and all who had the pleasure of hearing her were entertained and inspired.

The March meeting of the Library club proved to be one of the most interesting sessions of the year. The subject discussed was the Duty of the librarian to the profession. Several brief papers were presented, each touching upon a different phase of the librarian's responsibility, and a very free and animated discussion followed.

Marietta L. Street, '03, is organizing in the Shelbyville (Ill.) public library.

Gertrude A. Buck, at present junior reviser in the school will assume her duties as instructor in library management at Kansas state normal school, Emporia, Kan., on April 1.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

**New York state library**

With strong classes, both senior and junior, the year is proving one of the best in the history of the school. Mary L. Sutliff, whose remarkable gifts as a teacher have been so highly appreciated by recent classes, has been compelled to spend the year in California. Our temporary loss is the great gain of their state library, which has secured her services as cataloger and classifier. She is gaining strength in that climate and we are looking forward to her resumption of her very efficient work in Albany. It was rare good fortune that we had as her understudy Corinne Bacon, whose long experience in the New Britain public library, supplementing her college and library school course and her natural gifts as a teacher, fitted her specially for this appointment. She has been doing Miss Sutliff's work, both in the regular and summer school, most acceptably.

We have had an unusual number of foreign visitors and lecturers this year. Our students enjoy and profit greatly from getting at first hand the point of view of different countries. Among these lecturers were several delegates to the international library meeting at St Louis, L. Stanley Jast of Croydon, Eng., Dr Henri La Fontaine of Brussels, Dr Wolfstieg of Berlin, and Dr Aksel Andersson of the University of Uppsala, Sweden.

The annual visit of the national librarian is looked forward to with keen anticipation and never disappoints the school. This year Dr Putnam presented the organization and manifold activities of the national library, and as always made himself a willing victim of the many questions of his keenly interested audience.

The school greatly enjoyed the four lectures of Miss Stearns of the Wisconsin library commission: Some western phases of library work; Problem of the girl; The library spirit, and The library beautiful. The lectures themselves were admirable, but quite as much was gained by the school in personal acquaintance and closer contact with one whose work in the last decade has placed her in the

very front of the strong women who have so advanced and honored American librarianship.

Experience has proved the real economy of doing most library work on the typewriter instead of by hand. We now have 20 machines and the students not only do their work better and faster, but find it more enjoyable. The Oliver machine is the first favorite, but admirable results are being obtained from the first installment of the new library model of the Columbia Barlock. No one is willing to use any of the old standard machines where the writing is not visible. Whatever merit they may have for ordinary correspondence, the cataloger handling detached sentences in various languages needs to have his work constantly in sight, and one who has learned the advantage of the modern visible typewriters will use nothing else.

A great gain this year is the exclusive use given to the school of the old regents' room. To this has been transferred the library museum and the library school collections not kept in its study room. The three or four rooms below this are also being vacated in the reorganization of the Education department, so that the school and library will have exclusive use of all this territory, which was greatly needed.

Both classes are to have this year in May and June, for the first time, the new course of 20 or more lectures by the director on the librarian's executive work. This is to cover a great many subjects, not heretofore taken up in the library schools, which experience leads the faculty to believe are of the utmost importance as an aid to successful administration of the libraries intrusted to our graduates.

Mary L. Davis, N. Y. '92, who was invited to teach American methods in the Italian library school in Florence, will return as head instructor of the Chautauqua summer school, where her services last year were much appreciated.

Frances H. Fuller resigned from the Millicent library, Fairhaven, Mass., to



take charge of the children's department in the Springfield city library.

Mabel Emerton Prentiss, librarian of the Pomona (Cal.) public library, who took the New York state library summer school course in reference work and bibliography, and spent three additional months working with the senior class of the regular school, has returned to her work in Pomona.

Curiously the parent library school, which has filled over 1200 positions in other libraries, is seriously embarrassed to keep enough trained workers for its own service. Every library needing extra good help feels confidence in calling on us and we send out faster than we can bring in new material. The only item on the credit side is that we secured the return from the Detroit public library of Rosalie Mumford to our catalog department on February 4. It is an embarrassment, though gratifying, that the public demand for our best students constantly exceeds the supply.

MELVIL DEWEY, Director.

#### Pratt institute

The lectures scheduled for the winter term and reported to PUBLIC LIBRARIES in November and January have all been given with the exception of those by Mr Putnam, Mr Dana, and Miss Hitchler, which are still to come. Mr Putnam's date was changed from February 17 to March 7, and Miss Hunt of the Brooklyn public library was asked to take the former date and speak on the Selection of books for children.

By means of the informal teas after the lectures, the students have been able to meet personally a number of librarians and other lecturers interested in the book side of the library, and to ask the questions which suggested themselves during the lecture but which could not be got into the lecture hour.

Since the fall reception of the Graduates' association, another occasion of meeting the alumni has occurred in the annual luncheon of the Graduates' association, January 25, the day of the blizzard; at which 40 persons were present out of 75 who accepted, which

makes the faithful many rather than "the faithful few" a proper characterization of those who were present. The officers elected on this occasion for the coming year were: Julia B. Anthony, '91, president; Frances Rathbone, '03, vice-president; Bertha Miller, '01, secretary; Eda Perry, '03, treasurer; for extra member of the executive board, Minnie L. Benham, '04.

At the same meeting it was voted to present to the school a memorial of the late Mary L. Avery, from 1892 to 1898 connected with the school as instructor in English. A number of contributions have already been pledged, and a committee was appointed to consider the form the memorial should take.

The date for the entrance examinations for the coming year has been set, Friday, June 9, being the day chosen.

The school sets forth upon its annual week of library visits, this year in Washington and Baltimore, on March 24, accompanied by the director.

Miss Nelson, '91, Mrs Mirick (née Brewster), '95, Miss Carleton, '96, and Miss Fritz, '04, have all been engaged temporarily by the New York public library.

Eda Perry, '03, a member of the Pratt institute library staff, has been appointed children's librarian of the Millicent library at Fairhaven, Mass.

Miss Sayre, '04, has been appointed to the cataloging staff of the Buffalo public library, giving up her position in the Brooklyn *Eagle* office in February.

Miss Emerson, '04, has been engaged by the Osterhout library of Wilkesbarre, Pa.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

#### Western Reserve university

On the occasion of a recent visit to Cleveland, Mr Carnegie visited the library school and was received by the school with great pleasure. About 30 students were in their places to receive him. Mr Carnegie expressed himself pleased with all he saw, and complimented the school on the opportunity before it.

Esther Crawford has resigned from her position as instructor in classifica-

tion and cataloging in the Western Reserve university library school.

#### Columbia university

**Apprentices**—Columbia university library (New York) will take five apprentices for the academic year 1905-1906. College graduates preferred. For details, write Miss H. B. Prescott as above, before June 1, giving references.

#### Summer schools—Indiana

The Public library commission of Indiana will conduct the fourth compendious course of the School for librarians, at Winona Lake, Ind., during the Winona assembly and Summer school, July 5 to August 15, 1905. Merica Hoagland, state organizer for the Public library commission, is the dean of the school and will give the lectures on library administration. Anna R. Phelps of the New York state library school, and Ida M. Mendenhall, of the Pratt institute school of library training, are the instructors. They will be assisted by Sabra W. Vought of the New York state library school, Lillian Arnold of the University of Illinois library school, Charles J. Barr of the John Crerar library, and J. I. Wyer jr, secretary of the A. L. A.

Only those will be admitted who have had a four years' high school course or its equivalent, and who are creditably filling library positions, or are under definite appointment to them.

The course of study will include accession, classification, book numbers, cataloging, government publications, binding, bibliography, reference, library laws, organization and administration of public libraries and library buildings. Especial attention will be paid to library work with schools.

All inquiries concerning the Indiana school for librarians should be addressed to the Public library commission, State-house, Indianapolis.

#### New York, May 18-June 30, 1905

Under the rotation plan, which proved so successful with cataloging and classification in 1903, and reference work and bibliography in 1904, the course for 1905 will be on library administration, and

for 1906 on book selection and reading. The rotation is apt to follow in the same order each four years. While all these topics are properly covered by library administration, the course this year will omit, except for a brief summary, the subjects of the other three years, making this the most general of the four courses. All the members of the regular faculty will share in the work, which falls chiefly on Melvil Dewey, director, and on William R. Eastman, state library inspector, who will give 20 or more lectures each.

There will be three hours of class work daily five days a week for six weeks, a total of 90 class exercises. Two seminars for discussion of topics best handled in this way will be held each week, where teachers and students will study in round table treatment such questions as access to shelves, rural reading, work with schools, newspapers, children's rooms, duplicates, pay collections, traveling libraries and other topics as interest demands. Mr Eastman will give a series of seminars on library buildings with practical problems. If enough students wish, at the close of the school a visit under guidance of some of the faculty will be made to typical libraries in New York and vicinity.

The library institute for the Albany district will be held at the State library May 17 and 18, and all students are invited to be present and share in its program, which will be this year on library administration.

Mr Dewey's course will include: scope and founding of libraries, home education work, museums, study clubs, art galleries, library lectures, reading clubs and other forms of self education, government and service, trustees, qualifications of librarians and assistants, hours, vacations, titles, duties, salaries and rules for staff, regulations for readers, hours of opening, access, reference and home use, privileges and aids to readers, executive work, general supervision with special attention to finances, accounts, records, fittings and supplies, publications, statistics and all the methods, appliances and labor-savers adapted to the librarian's office and work.

A special effort is to be made by the faculty and by other teachers to give to the class this year the practical results of experience on many important details seldom discussed in library courses, such as relations to trustees, the librarian's work as secretary, and business and financial responsibilities and methods. It is hoped in this way to give to those who have not had much executive or business experience the best results from older librarians who have been specially efficient in these lines. Mrs Fairchild is to give six or eight lectures on loan systems, forms of card catalogs, general principles of book selection, work for the blind, and presidents of the A. L. A. Practice work will be given with the instruction in accession, shelf-list, loan system and other administrative work.

One day each week will be free to visit libraries in Albany and vicinity, and a special feature will be made of individual research in the great wealth of material accumulated in the State library and by the Library school. Its collection, the largest in the world, of illustrative material in all phases of library administration justifies a margin of time in which students may have opportunity to study carefully the subjects in which they are most interested when they can have the needed assistance from the faculty.

#### Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Summer library school will have a course in public documents the last week in June for those students in the school, and for all Wisconsin librarians who care to attend.

#### University of Wyoming

A short course in library methods will be given at the summer school at the university at Laramie, June 26 to August 4, by the librarian, Grace R. Hebard. The library will be used as a laboratory.

Andrew Keogh of the Yale library is preparing a list of theses accepted by Yale for the degree of doctor of philosophy.

#### Foreign Notes

The January number of the *Library association record* contains three papers on local collections, on their classification and arrangement, and on local photographic surveys. The latter is a subject which will more naturally interest those living in older communities where there are many remains from olden times; it should be remembered, however, that what we find trivial enough will be of great interest to coming generations to have preserved pictorially if not actually. It would seem that here is a field for public libraries to work in coöperation with local societies of amateur photographers.

In the February number we find Mr Jast's Impressions of American libraries, read before the Library association at the December meeting. Mr Jast was an interested visitor at several large libraries on his way to and from the St Louis conference, and was particularly interested in the question of open access to the books, of which he has been a consistent champion for many years. He did not find the access as "safeguarded" here as in England. Among the libraries visited were those in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, Albany, Providence, and, of course, the Library of congress. Of the last named library he says: They rejoice, of course, in plenty of money, the staff is exceedingly large, capable of coping with the highly specialized work that is carried on, and the fittings are a dream.

Some of the success of the library he ascribes to the fact that the librarian received his training in a public library. In Providence Mr Jast was particularly impressed with Mr Foster's Standard library, of which he says: It appears to me to be the only kind of "evaluation" that is germane to the public library and of real benefit to the reader. Here the reader who is bewildered by the multitude of books can choose what suits him, with the certainty that his choice is of the best. And it is a real individual choice; he is not hypnotized by the suggestions of the critical annotator.

Mr Jast was much impressed with the large resources of American libraries, though it did not seem to him that we here accomplish as much as they do in England with much more inadequate funds. Nobody seems to have been able to explain the reason for this apparent lack of results, and he thinks the reason for this may be that the American man is not a reader, save of the newspaper. That the American man is not much of a frequenter of public libraries might be caused by "the trail of the feminine," which Mr Jast naturally discovered in our libraries. At least this much must be said, that vastly much more is done to attract women and children than men to public libraries.

A quite unnecessary editorial remark in *Library journal* seems to have disturbed some of our English colleagues a good deal more than it was worth; the implication being made that, because the *Library journal* is the "organ of the A. L. A.," the authorities of the A. L. A. must be in some way responsible for the editorials in the *Journal*. Mr Jast was able to disabuse his friends in this respect and also in regard to the supposed impropriety of the joking remark which caused the comment. The association passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That this meeting having heard Mr Jast's explanation with respect to his reply on behalf of the foreign delegates, as reported and commented upon in the *Library journal* for November, expresses its unabated confidence in Mr Jast, and orders that this resolution be placed upon the minutes.

*Folkbiblioteksbladet* for December contains a short note by Mr Nyhuus on the St Louis conference, or rather on American libraries. If Mr Jast is particularly interested in open access, Mr Nyhuus' hobby is branch libraries; he tells about the new branch buildings in Brooklyn, and remarks that the system of having both delivery room and reading-room in one presumably will not be liked by those who want to read something that requires close attention. The writer found the American libraries in an abnormal state of development, thanks to Andrew Carnegie, but would seemingly

not have any objection should Mr Carnegie wish to grow "mushroom" libraries in Norway. The A. L. A. catalog comes in for some favorable remarks. Coöperation is another of Mr Nyhuus' hobbies, and he has championed the idea in Norway with a high enthusiasm.

Dr Wolfstieg's preliminary report of the conference appeared in the December *Zentralblatt für bibliothekswesen*; it deals exclusively with the conference, and reports the chief features of it. We will presumably have a fuller account later.

A. G. S. J.

### A Librarian's Observations

In his annual report Frank P. Hill of Brooklyn public library makes the following observations. In speaking of his visit to Europe last summer, he says:

The trip abroad extended over 70 days, during which 62 libraries and 53 bookstores were visited.

The advantages of the trip came from a renewal of old friendships, a closer acquaintance with colleagues abroad, the comparison of library systems and the opportunity of purchasing books for the library.

Briefly stated, some of the noticeable things which attracted the attention of the librarian were:

1 Libraries in Europe have smaller appropriations than in America.

2 The library movement is gaining ground in Germany and Switzerland, but there seems to be little progress in France.

3 In Germany the public libraries are intended for poor people.

4 In England there is less coöperation among librarians than in America.

5 The best public libraries of Great Britain are quite as good as our best. This is particularly true of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and some of the libraries in London.

6 All the public libraries of Great Britain have a central building.

7 American libraries make better provision for children than do foreign libraries.

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The regular monthly meeting of the Chicago library club was held Thursday evening, March 9, at the Chicago public library, the president in the chair. The resignation of Lydia Robinson was read and accepted. Mary E. Roe and Lester E. Bernd were elected members of the club. Mr Josephson, in behalf of the committee on the city charter, presented a preliminary report, with the request that the committee be given authority to address the mayor and the city council and that the committee be continued until fall. The report was adopted and the committee continued. E. G. Routzahn of the Municipal museum gave a brief account of the exhibition now in progress at the Public library. Its object is to bring together material relating to the general subject of civic improvement, classified under the following heads: Parks, transportation, schools, sanitation, housing, etc. Brief talks are given daily from 10.30 to 2, and there are illustrated lectures by specialists at less frequent intervals. A cordial invitation to the club to visit the museum was accepted. The remainder of the evening was given over to a question box, conducted by Caroline McIlvaine and the president. The advisability of discarding the accession book, the plan of old age pensions for library assistants, the granting of a Sabbatical year for research work, the question of weekly half-holidays, together with more technical subjects, were discussed. Not more than three of those present favored a plan of coöperative pensions involving any contributions by the library assistants. Such a scheme has already been proposed by the board of directors of the Chicago public library.

CHARLES H. BROWN, Sec.

**Connecticut**—The annual meeting of the Connecticut library association was held at Trinity college, Hartford, on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1905.

Pres. Flavel S. Luther gave an address of welcome in which he showed his appreciation of librarians' work, although

he called himself a non-expert, and heartily welcomed the association to Trinity.

Mr Trumbull responded by naming Trinity as the first college to entertain the association, and saying that we should appreciate the academic atmosphere, after our everyday work, which, according to statistics, consisted in distributing 75 per cent fiction to the public; "but," he quoted, "there are three kinds of lies—black lies, white lies, and statistics!"

Miss Gay of New London public library read a paper on New books. Why can I never get a new book at the library? asks the fiction reader. It is really not much matter if everybody does not get the last novel. We are more pleased with the appreciative use of one solid book than with the circulation of many new novels. Fiction percentage is better decreased. Let us advertise some of the old books, perhaps by buying a new biography of some good author well known in other days. This craze for newness is but a fad. We rush through the new novels because they are new. In times past one could not say "I have read," only "I am reading" Sir Charles Grandison.

The New London library is making a specialty of books on the Arctic regions and books published in New London. Every library should have one strong spot. The best books of today are not necessarily the best books of tomorrow.

Mr Fletcher of Amherst college library, after a few reminiscences of Hartford, gave a paper on The future of the catalog, which proved the starting point for a long and lively discussion. He called the usual dictionary catalog in some of its details a superstition and a tradition. Two things have affected it greatly—the increased size of libraries and the change in the temper of librarians. Immense libraries can not have card catalogs full of details and analytics; this makes an unwieldy load, and now the librarian and staff give more assistance than ever before. Authors and subjects should be separate. A great



many titles should be used and put with the subjects. Is it best to put in cards referring to the shelf list, which is a practical classed list, and put the latter in the hands of the public to save repetition? Published reading lists may be used, and although many of the books referred to may not be in the library, they may be made to take the place of an overburdened card catalog. Access to minutely classified books on the shelves is often practicable, and then there is the attendant, who is the indispensable adjunct to all aids. Every method is subject to change as occasion requires.

Discussion on various subjects followed. The question of the comparative value of the two new cyclopedias was brought up; some thought the New international and some the Americana; some condemned both, and some neither.

The plan of renting books from the Booklover's library and the Bodley club seemed to have been tried and found rather successful in every way except that new books were very difficult to get.

Buying books from the Booklover's list was recommended.

Dr Richardson of Princeton, who was present for a short time, said a few words on the A. L. A. meeting to be held in Portland in July. He said the trip would be made practicable for many eastern librarians and would be certainly interesting and enjoyable. It was hoped that the influence of a large attendance would be great on the library interests of the Northwest. Preparations were being made for a full attendance and the A. L. A. train would contain a party who would get pleasure and profit from the trip.

Discussion was resumed on the new book question. Mr Borden of Young men's institute, New Haven, said the only way to secure new books was to buy duplicates and charge for the reading of them, and sell them at low rates when the demand was over.

The catalog question came to the surface again with the query, Does it pay to print a catalog? It was decided that

few libraries could afford it. It was never up-to-date and a useless extravagance. A simple author list might be of use, classed or unclassified, but nothing further. Mr Fletcher referred to the case of the Boston library decision that as most of the books called for were less than three years old, a printed catalog would hardly be of much use as it would take three years to print it. Mr Godard suggested the possibility of a central catalog which could be so secured by small libraries; perhaps the A. L. A. catalog could be so used and the local numbers added.

Miss Haines of the *Library journal* spoke of the prospects of the Portland A. L. A. meeting. The program is to be of a more elementary sort than last year, for the benefit of the many new libraries of the West.

Mr James returned to the catalog question. He did not believe in putting the shelf list in the hands of the public, or reading lists compiled by others than the library where they were to be used. A short reading list on the cards is sufficient for most cases. Bibliographies are not up-to-date but can be put into the card catalog temporarily.

Mr Trumbull announced that the library of Prof. Clark of Berkeley divinity school was to be disposed of. He also read an invitation from the Rhode Island library club to meet with them at Westerly in June.

A recess was taken and the visitors were shown about the college buildings till two o'clock, when they gathered in the commons to partake of a delightful and satisfying luncheon. At the close of this a vote of thanks and appreciation was given with striking unanimity to Trinity college.

The afternoon session opened with the election of the following officers for the ensuing year: President, George S. Godard, state library, Hartford; vice-presidents, Prof. John C. Schwab, Yale library, New Haven; Rev. Wm. H. Holman, Southport; Walter Learned, New London; Dr Charles W. Gaylord, Branford; Louise M. Carrington, Public library, Winsted; Frances B. Russell, Pub-

lic library, Stratford; secretary, Belle Holcomb Johnson, State board of education, Hartford; treasurer, Esther B. Owen, Public library, Hartford.

The discussion of the Libraries and schools question was opened on the library side by Esther B. Owen of Hartford public library. She gave an account of that library's experience with school work. We are bound to furnish reading to the children after teaching them to read. They have branches at the schools, duplicates for school use, answer questions on all subjects and find pictures and material for debates, requiring three days notice for the last. They have an "irregular" branch at one school where boys' books in bright covers are placed to entice some juvenile readers who were devoted to cheap, flashy stories of the worst kind. This seemed to be doing good work. Among the things to be desired were these: Teachers might be more systematic and give more time to a class to spend at the library looking up a serious subject. They might give less difficult and unreasonable subjects for debates. They might be more accurate in giving the pupils references to look up. There might be more parallel text-books for reference. In our coöperation let us have more of the "co."

Mr Graves, who was to present the school side of the question, was unable to be present and the time was taken up with discussion.

Mr Anderson told of the burning of the Knoxville (Tenn.) library, when the children mourned as for a very dear friend.

Mr Whitney said when he used to teach freshmen, he got the librarian to give them some lectures on how to use the library, which profited them greatly. This might be done in the high schools. Also, children like to teach each other.

Mr Cutter of Northampton told of the situation there. He gave talks to the teachers which resulted in all of them registering and taking advantage of the library resources. A parallel library was purchased and placed among the schools, and adult books added later and peda-

gogical books for the use of the teachers.

Mr Trumbull suggested that we cultivate the teachers more and make them feel that it was a part of their right to use the library and not simply to ask a favor occasionally.

The question of the Westerly invitation was put to vote and accepted. It was left to the executive committee whether this joint meeting is to take the place of our regular May meeting.

The association was invited by Miss Hewins to have a cup of tea at the Hartford public library, and the meeting adjourned.

Laura F. Philbrook, Sec.

**Long Island**—The February meeting of the Long Island library club was held at the new building of the Williamsburg branch of the Brooklyn public library, February 16. After a brief business session, the club listened to an address by Dr James H. Canfield of Columbia university on the Librarian as a citizen. Librarianship may fairly claim professional standing because, first, it affords adequate remuneration, for where returns are inadequate and uncertain there can be no professional spirit. Second, it demands adequate or reasonable special preparation. Special preparation has been required only recently in any of the professions, but it is required more and more in librarianship. Third, it provides a reasonable tenure of office, Where there is no continuity of contact, no permanent relations with people, there can be no professional standing. Fourth, because it has a reasonable social recognition and standing. Hence the librarian may be said to have entered very fairly into professional life. But professional life is not necessarily the life of a citizen. By a citizen is meant a practically efficient integer in a body politic, one who counts as a definite unite in the sum of life. Mass life as it is seen in many large industrial centers, with no sense of the integral parts, is a menace to our civilization. Civilization is the condition of living together in relations of mutual helpfulness, of intelligent coöperation for the

common welfare. Those so situated that they can participate, and whose co-operation is sought, are really citizens. In many professions men are obliged to go outside of their profession to be citizens. Men are often forced to choose between their business interests and their duty to the commonwealth, but librarianship involves citizenship in its very nature. The problems of librarianship are the problems of active citizenship. Day by day we study how to bring to bear on the community the influence of the best men and the best women. The librarian can not live the dreary treadmill of a selfish life, but is taken out of himself and forced to study the lives of others, to understand their standpoints, to come into personal contact and friendly relations with those whose needs it is his business to meet. The librarian who does these things may not have political power, but is nevertheless a true citizen.

A social hour followed the meeting and the beautiful new building was inspected and admired.

JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE, Sec.

**New Jersey**—A meeting of the New Jersey library association was held on the afternoon of March 15 at the Newark free public library. Mr Dana made a brief address of welcome in which he spoke of the value of such meetings; not in themselves, but in the preparation entailed and in the work carried on between the meetings, making the association a living, active organism during the whole year. The meeting was planned to cover subjects of interest primarily to library assistants, and to be conducted by assistants; but all present were invited to join in the discussion informally and to give their own opinions as well as to listen to those of others. The program discussed was as follows:

General topic: Qualifications of the assistant.

Opening paper by Miss Bennett, chief of the loan department, Trenton public library.

#### Discussion

"You read another's thoughts; you speak your own"

1 Aids in desk work. Discussion led by Miss Burnet, assistant librarian, Madison public library.

- a) General knowledge of books.
- b) Annotated lists—bibliographies.
- c) Miscellaneous aids.

2 Knowledge of fiction. Discussion led by Miss Prevost, librarian, Elizabeth public library.

- a) Personal reading.
- b) Keeping up with the best reviews.

3 On a certain condescension of library workers toward the public. Discussion led by Miss Patten, assistant, Plainfield public library.

4 Should there be a special assistant for this work of furnishing literary and general information? Discussion led by Mr McCurdy, assistant librarian, Sage library, New Brunswick.

- a) From library's point of view.
- b) From assistants' point of view.

This program was arranged by Florence Bowman, assistant librarian of the Plainfield public library, and to her also fell the responsibility of getting the leaders for the discussions. This was no easy matter as she had to write to 25 assistants before persuading four to undertake the work. Miss Bowman presided at the meeting, which was larger than anticipated. One hundred and thirty were present. They came not only from New Jersey, but also from New York and Brooklyn. The majority were assistants. Perhaps 10 would cover the number who were not. This showed that the idea seemed worth while both to the librarians who staid at home to give their assistants a chance to be present, and to the library workers who came. Discussion was not entered into as generally as was hoped, but the ripple of laughter that went over the gathering at points touched, showed that all were keenly interested and appreciative.

The papers were excellent with bright illustrations setting forth again the well-known qualifications: tact, common sense, general intelligence, general



knowledge of books, especially fiction, and a saving sense of humor. "Unlimited good nature," was another trait warmly commended to the desk assistant. If one had the above qualities the missionary or condescending spirit would be lacking. As Miss Hitchler of Brooklyn, put it: Have the ability to put yourself in the place of the person on the other side of the desk, and things wont go wrong.

There were warnings against falling into a rut, being "lifeless," becoming too mechanical, passing a person on from one attendant to another. Mr Dana said the ideal method, which can be and is carried out in small libraries, where each one does all things, is for the assistant who first meets a borrower or student to attend to the latter's wants, from issuing a card to looking up references or selecting a book, until the student leaves the library.

Lack of time for personal reading of books or reviews and questions as to the best way to overcome this difficulty were asked, also what reviews were the best. Miss Plummer said that one grew to know a reviewer after awhile, that a good method was to send for books on approval, read them and their reviews. If you agreed with the reviewer, remember him, if not, distrust that reviewer and beware of him in the future. Mr Bostwick said that, personally, he considered all reviews more or less untrustworthy; as he knew too well the conditions under which many were written. The best way was to rely on one's own opinion, though a digest of reviews, giving the source, would be valuable to librarians. Miss Winsor of Newark and Miss Pomeroy of Pratt institute library, Brooklyn, spoke favorably of the Cumulative book review digest about to be published by the Wilson Company of Minneapolis. Among others who took part in the discussion were Miss Conklin, of Basking Ridge, not an active librarian, but an interested coworker, Miss Askew, library organizer for the state of New Jersey, Miss Roberts of the reference department and Miss Richmond of the

circulating department of the Newark library, and many beside.

After the meeting tea was served and an informal social hour enjoyed. All seemed to get acquainted with one another and all were enthusiastic over the meeting.

Those of the executive committee who were present decided then and there to have similar meetings more often in the future. Though discussion was not general at this meeting, all seemed to appreciate fully everything said by others, and at another time we venture to hope that more of those present will be ready to speak for themselves.

IDA MCD. HOWELL.

**Pennsylvania**—The third meeting of the season was held at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia on Tuesday evening, Feb. 14, 1905, at eight o'clock. Upon motion, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was omitted. Mr Ashhurst announced the program of the joint meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association to be held at Atlantic City on March 31 to April 1, 1905.

Mr Ashhurst then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr Thomson, librarian of the Free library of Philadelphia, who gave an illustrated talk on Valentines and their history. Mr Thomson said: It is open to debate how St Valentine's day, February 14, was substituted for the old pagan Roman ceremonies of February 15, on which occurred the festival of the Lupercalia.

The earliest poetical valentines known were composed by Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was taken prisoner at Agincourt in 1415, and who wrote them in the Tower of London. They are preserved in manuscript in the British museum. A very early book as to valentines was the Young man's valentine writer, and anyone could find in the book bits of sentiment elaborately expressed. The first book of the kind was printed in 1797.

Herrick has four verselets written to his valentine, while Pepys and Charles

Lamb mention the day in their writings. We are all familiar with the incident relating to this holiday in the Fair maid of Perth and with the valentine of the immortal Samuel Weller. The customs of Valentine's day are not known to have been observed outside of Great Britain and France, and in more recent times in the United States. It is interesting to know that valentines have been printed in embossed type so that they could be sent to the blind, the idea of making these being credited to Lady Falkland.

A large collection of valentines dating from 1820 and contained in 1000v. is in the possession of Jonathan King of Essex Road, Islington. In this country, the largest collector is Frank H. Baer, Esq., of Cleveland, Ohio, from whose collection most of the examples shown on the sheet tonight are taken.

(An exhibition of a number of rare and curious valentines lent by Mr Baer, was displayed in the exhibition cases of the library, where they may be seen for several weeks to come.)

At the conclusion of this talk, Mr Ashhurst thanked Mr Thomson in the name of the club, after which the meeting was adjourned. An informal and pleasant reception, from which each member and guest carried away an individual valentine as a souvenir, followed in the upper rooms of the library.

EDITH BRINKMANN, Sec.

**Vermont**—Twenty-four persons connected with or interested in libraries in Burlington and vicinity, assembled at the Fletcher library at Burlington, Vt., on Saturday afternoon, March 11. The secretary of the Vermont library commission, Miss Hobart, reported plans and progress in establishing traveling and public libraries in the small towns. An informal talk by Miss Clarke, librarian of the University of Vermont, touched on net prices, books for the blind, and a penny postal rate for library books. A social cup of tea concluded a pleasant and profitable meeting.

**Wisconsin**—The fifteenth annual meeting of the Wisconsin state library asso-

ciation held at Beloit, February 22-23, was a great success, everyone felt it—everyone said it; throughout the entire meeting the addresses, papers and discussions held the undivided attention of the large and interested audiences.

The first session, called at 2 p. m., February 22, was devoted to the educational work of the library. The association was welcomed to Beloit in a most graceful manner by Mayor Charles Gault, who said in his address of welcome that he could not give the keys of the city because it had never been locked to such an organization.

Hon. H. P. Bird, the president of the association, presided over the meetings and the spirit with which they proceeded was largely due to his characteristically happy way of enthusing everyone. In his address Mr Bird dwelt upon the fact that the welfare, stability and peace of this country depended largely upon the librarians whose high ideals would influence the young men and women of the time and keep them stable.

Bessie Sergeant Smith, librarian Public library, Dubuque, Iowa, dealt with the methods of securing better reading so that more people might become better people by reading better books. Some of the methods suggested were that books be advertised by means of lists and annotations inserted in the local papers, and that new books, as well as groups of books on one subject, should be placed where accessible. The following ideas were also suggested: That an exhibit of work done by school children brings people to the library and arouses their interest in books dealing with the handicrafts; that the library should keep in touch with the clubs and their work; that bulletins, even if small, were of advantage; that teachers should be given special privileges; and in demand for fiction, duplicate the standards with attractive copies. But above all methods to be employed for securing better reading, the essential qualification for the librarian is to know her own books and love them.

In the most eloquent paper of the meeting F. A. Hutchins of the Wisconsin

sin free library commission treated the librarians' attitude toward school work and what has been done to meet the needs. The books a boy reads for pleasure with interest do more to influence him than those he studies. The home library, the public library and the street library are all open to the boy and the one with the most attractions will win; therefore Mr Hutchins urged that the boy be given a love for books by sending careful selections to the schools so as to stimulate his interest to read. Train him to be a student. By the successful coöperation of the teacher and librarian the pupil may be taught to use the power to read, and comes to possess the priceless ability to get information.

In the absence of Miss Ellis, children's librarian of the Madison public library, her paper on what the Madison public library does was read by Miss Hopkins. First the choice of books was treated and then the visits to schools described where talks about books are given to arouse the pupil's interest in them. The use of the catalog was taught by means of contests. To interest the teachers in knowing books each teacher was requested to read one book a term and report on it at the meetings held in the library. The children are made the librarians of the books sent to the schools in some grades. The aim of the work is to help children find pleasure in the finest things.

The afternoon session closed with reports from Wisconsin public libraries which are coöperating actively with the schools, Rhinelander, Marinette, Superior, Kenosha, and Portage being represented.

The evening session was devoted to the consideration of library extension, getting the books to the people.

Dr E. A. Birge, trustee Madison public library, read a scholarly paper on library distribution centers, treating in an exhaustive manner the various means of distributing through the country by the use of branches, stations, school duplicate collections, traveling libraries, house to house delivery, rent collections.

Hon. H. L. Ekern, trustee Whitehall

public library, dealt with the problem of the country readers and made some interesting suggestions as to how they might be reached. In order to get at the farmers and interest them, go right out to meet them; personal contact is the thing. Send books by the milk or cream gatherer, or, better yet, have free postage within the country.

Two of the problems in library administration discussed by C. W. Graves, trustee Viroqua public library, were the disproportionate amounts so often spent on the maintenance of libraries as compared with the sums invested in books; and secondly, the problem of book buying.

Supt. C. G. Pearse of the Milwaukee public schools, spoke of what the school needs of the public library, needs which he said librarians of today did not have to be told about, for they were constantly seeking them themselves. The sub-stations in schools did an excellent work as by this means the people become interested through the children. The thought that the librarians could suggest ownership of books to the children was also expressed.

At the beginning of the morning session the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Dr E. A. Birge, Madison, president; Grace O. Edwards, Superior, vice-president; Henry E. Legler, Madison, secretary; Grace Salisbury, treasurer.

The idea of the story hour appeals to everyone and so those who were present at the morning session on Thursday wished that old and young, big and little, might have heard Miss Lymann, children's librarian, Scoville institute, Oak Park, Ill., deliver an address on the story hour as an incentive to better reading and how to conduct it.

Some of the benefits derived from the story are that it teaches concentration, cultivates the imagination and love of beauty, strengthens the memory and deepens impression, cultivates a fine and delicate sense of humor, and induces the child to read the book after he has been told a portion of its story.

Fairy tales give the freest scope for

the action of moral laws, e. g., in *Cinderella* we learn that hate kills and love conquers. Fables should be used with care for much in their origin makes them unfavorable for the child.

Stories may be divided into the true story, which includes science, history and biography, the realistic story and the story of adventure. Stories should not be merely instructive. The storyteller must be vitally interested in the story himself, he must make clear statements, not vague, general ones if he wishes to hold the attention of the children; furthermore, there should be a good ending to the story; don't go back and moralize.

The rest of the morning session was devoted to the institute conducted by Cornelia Marvin. Miss Marvin has an unusual ability for imparting all sorts of helpful information in the most interesting manner, and her explanations of the various new technical methods to be employed, including the use of printed catalog cards, and the excellent reasons she gave for discarding antiquated methods in library work animated even the most conservative to try the up-to-date methods.

The sessions were all held in the new public library where the hospitality of Miss Bell, the librarian, and her sister was so graciously extended to us, that everyone felt very much at home.

Many members took the opportunity of visiting the library of the University of Beloit, the Janesville library and that most unique and interesting Gleaner's library, a "reference loaning library by mail" owned by Miss Swan.

BERTHA MARX, Sec.

### Illinois Library Association

Plans for the Rockford meeting are going forward in a most encouraging manner, and all signs indicate a successful and interesting conference. The meeting will begin on Wednesday afternoon, April 19. An informal reception will be tendered the members on Wednesday evening. The program proper will begin Thursday morning. Final announcements will be made in

the printed program which will be distributed as soon after April 1 as possible. Illinois librarians who fail to receive copies by April 10 will confer a favor by sending their names to the president.

### Thursday morning, April 20

#### Book selection

Some general principles of book selection. Mary B. Lindsay, librarian, Free public library, Evanston.

The practical side of book reviewing, Wallace Rice, critic and literary expert.

Net book prices from the library standpoint, Arthur E. Bostwick, chairman A. L. A. committee on book buying.

Special collections in small libraries, Caroline M. McIlvaine, librarian, Chicago historical society.

### Thursday afternoon

#### Preparation

Printed cards in the small library.

Library of congress cards and the Ohio library association plan, Mary E. Ahern, representing special committee, O. L. A.

The story hour and how to conduct it, Edna B. Lyman, children's librarian, Public library, Oak Park.

Library bookbinding (illustrated with examples of materials and processes), J. Ritchie Patterson, superintendent of binding, Public library, Chicago.

### Thursday evening

#### Public meeting

Address: The library's place in the municipality, Arthur E. Bostwick, superintendent of circulation, Public library, New York.

### Friday morning, April 21

#### Distribution

Recent library aids, Frances Simpson, reference librarian, University of Illinois library.

The relations of the greater libraries to the lesser, C. H. Barr, assistant librarian, the John Crerar library, Chicago. Discussion led by Caroline L. Elliott, reference librarian, Public library, Chicago.

County libraries, A. D. Early, president board of trustees, Public library, Rockford.

Open discussion: a) Question box; topics proposed by members; b) The duties of the librarian to his profession.

### Friday afternoon

#### Trustees

The trustee as employer. Discussion led by J. Seymour Currey, vice-president board of directors, Free public library, Evanston.

The latter part of Friday afternoon will be left open for a tour of the city of Rockford, and a visit to the new branch of the Rockford library

### Ontario Library Association

Program of fifth annual meeting, the Canadian institute, Toronto, April 24 and 25

#### Monday—Afternoon session

- 2-5 p. m. Business—Annual reports, Secretary E. A. Hardy, Treasurer A. B. MacCallum.  
 Reports of committees—Lists of best books, Jas. Bain; Traveling libraries, A. B. MacCallum; Ontario library commission, Jas. Bain.  
 Paper—Classification, Effie A. Schmidt, Berlin.  
 Open conference—The merits and defects of our new library buildings, led by E. A. Hardy, Toronto.

#### Evening session

- 8-10 p. m. President's address, W. Tytler, Guelph  
 Paper—Canadian government publications, Jas. Bain, Toronto.  
 Address—Hon. R. A. Pyne, M. D., Minister of education, Toronto.  
 Address—Melvil Dewey, Albany.

#### Tuesday

- 9.30-12 a. m. Open conference—The effect of the 50 per cent interpretation of the regulation by government grant, led by A. W. Cameron, Streetsville.  
 Paper—Miss A. G. Rowsome, Guelph.  
 Business—Election of officers, unfinished business.  
 Address—Melvil Dewey, Albany.

### Religious Education Association Library section

The third annual convention of the Religious education association was held in Boston, February 12-16. The second annual meeting of the Library department of the association was held in the hall of the Boston public library on February 15. About 80 persons were present, a large proportion of them librarians who had come to Boston to attend the meeting of the Massachusetts library club on February 16. Brisk discussion followed nearly every paper read.

Drew B. Hall, librarian of the Mill-cent library, Fairhaven, Mass., gave the annual survey of the religious and ethical work of librarians. He confined his attention almost exclusively to the material equipment of the public libraries in the field of religious works. From investigations conducted by him Mr Hall has discovered that in most libraries this department is less than 4 per cent of the

entire collection and of that only a very small portion of the books in that department have been published within the last 25 years.

George F. Bowerman, librarian of the Public library of the District of Columbia, president of the Library department spoke on the principles governing the choice of religious and theological books for public libraries. Religion being one of the greatest subjects of human interest this department should have just as much consideration as any other department of the library. The acquiring of religious books by purchase or gift should not be limited by the doctrinal position of the writer, but books should be acquired solely on their literary merits. The various sects having any considerable number of adherents in the community should be represented in the library by their journals and by literature giving a statement of their point of view. Religious fiction should be admitted on its literary merits, disregarding the religious theme.

William I. Fletcher read a paper on the Moral value of reading in the community, in which he showed how much the library could do and how little it has yet done in the communities where it is planted.

The Rev. George A. Jackson, librarian of the General theological library, Boston, Mass., gave an excellent address on Need of professional librarians to maintain the standards of our ministry. He pointed out that unless the country ministers receiving small salaries are supplied with the latest critical works their influence over the people is at an end.

Sam Walter Foss, librarian of the Somerville (Mass.) public library, in speaking of the Sunday school and the public library urged a more general use of the Sunday school as a distributing station of the public library books to the young. Heller C. Wellman, librarian of the City library, Springfield, Mass., described the work actually being done in Springfield by the library through the Sunday-school libraries and the reasons why it is so successful.



### News from the Field East

The Bulletin of the New Hampshire public libraries, issued by the State library, No. 1 of Vol. 4, reprints the compilation of 1000 of the best novels by the Newark (N. J.) public library.

### Central Atlantic

De Witt Clinton, librarian of the Y. M. A. library, Troy, N. Y., has resigned and will engage in bookselling. Mr Clinton was librarian for 30 years.

L. N. Tough jr, has been employed as library organizer by the Maryland state library commission to visit the various counties of eastern Maryland.

The Guitean library at Irvington, N. Y., has issued a list of the music in that library. A list of books on gardens and gardening has also been compiled.

Minnie L. Benham, Pratt '04, since graduation connected with the Library school as its secretary, died March 4, in Brooklyn, of heart failure after an illness of two weeks.

The report of Librarian A. J. Strohm of Trenton, N. J., shows 31,382v. and 355 pamphlets; issued for home use 204,724v.; with 12,276 active card holders. Salaries \$6597; books \$3439.

Sarah W. Cattell, N. Y. '90, has been appointed treasurer of the Woman's foreign missionary society of the Presbyterian church, with headquarters in the Witherspoon building, Philadelphia, Pa. As a part of her work Miss Cattell will have charge of a fine missionary library.

An exhibition of Japanese prints was opened in the art gallery of the Public library of Newark, N. J., March 4. The prints form a part of a collection owned by the librarian, John Cotton Dana and were exhibited at the request of the trustees and the fine arts commission of the library.

The Newark (N. J.) public library has opened a science museum on the fourth floor of the library building. A collection of minerals, plants and other objects has been arranged to which ad-

ditions will be made continually. The museum will be open to the public every Saturday afternoon.

The Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore issued 751,008v. last year. There are 172 institutions entitled to draw books—public schools 62; private schools 13; institutions 18; playgrounds 13; Sunday schools 19; engine companies 37; police stations 9, and the Maryland Sunday school union. The work in the branch libraries is extending in many lines.

An exhibition of mezzotints, open during March, in the New York public library, Lenox library building, was drawn entirely from the private collection of J. Pierpont Morgan. It was devoted mainly to the period of British mezzotinting, occurring about the second half of the eighteenth century but included also work as late as that of Samuel Cousins. All the noted engravers were well represented: McArdell, Green, Dean, Doughty, Dunkarton, James and Thomas Watson, J. R. Smith, John Jones, John Young and others. An exhibition of this kind is interesting not only to the lover of prints, of fine impressions, but as remarkable reproductions of notable paintings, these engravings mirror the achievement and tendencies of a period of British art which boasted such men as Sir Joshua Reynolds, John Hoppner, George Romney, Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Thomas Lawrence and our own Sir Benjamin West, P. R. A. As portraits, which they are practically all, they form interesting and valuable records of individuals and of national types. The interest of costume is obvious, while pose and manner throw further light on fashions and fads of the time. Child life, too, is interestingly illustrated. There is a tendency to appear in a rôle: we get Lady Anne Dawson as Diana, Lady Hamilton as a bacchante, Phoebe Hoppner as a flower girl, little Miss Palmer as a strawberry girl, Miss Meyer as Hebe, Lady Beauchamp Procter adorning a figure of Hy-men. Of course, in the case of actresses, such as Mrs Abingdon, Anne Brown, Anne Elliott, the pose in char-



acter is expected. Among the portraits are also those of James Boswell, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Warren Hastings, Admiral Keppel, Samuel Johnson, David Garrick, J. P. Curran, and Abraham Hume.

Labels accompanying the prints not only gave the usual facts regarding painter and engraver, title and impression, but frequently also some information regarding the subject of the picture.

Illustrated works on the history and technique of mezzotinting were put within easy access for consultation during the exhibition, which was of course free to the public.

#### Central

Beloit, Wis., has two Carnegie libraries, the college and the public libraries. This is the only case on record so far as is known.

The appointment of Linda M. Clatworthy as acting librarian of Dayton public library, has been changed to appointment as librarian.

The new library building, the gift of Mr Carnegie, at Marion, Iowa, was opened to the public on March 16, with appropriate ceremonies.

The Carnegie-Stout library of Dubuque, Iowa, reports a home use last year of 101,687v. with 7254 borrowers and 23,388v. on the shelves.

Mrs Julia G. Erwin, librarian of Painesville, Ohio, since 1898, has resigned. Margaret Kilbourne, her assistant, has been elected to succeed her.

Herbert Putnam, librarian of the Congressional library, was the convocation orator and guest of honor at the University of Chicago March 20-21.

The temporary appointment of Gratia Countryman as librarian of Minneapolis public library, has been made permanent and the salary increased from \$2000 to \$2250.

Andrew Carnegie has given \$125,000 to Oberlin college, Ohio, for a library building on the condition of \$100,000 being raised by the college as an endowment fund.

Priscilla Pickrell, librarian of Oska-loosa, Iowa, has resigned her position to be married, and Marjorie Graves of Dubuque public library has been appointed in her place.

The Davenport (Iowa) public library has prepared and presented, through the Davenport papers, a very full list of material on engineering, mechanics, electricity and other technical subjects.

Stella V. Seybold, formerly of the Cincinnati public library, and for the past two years librarian of Jacksonville, Ill., has been elected librarian of Davenport, Iowa, to succeed Miss Freeman.

The annual report of the Newberry library, Chicago, for 1904, gives the accessions to the library as 7085v. and pamphlets; total number of books, maps, charts, etc., in the library 273,695; periodicals on file 1182.

The handsome library building in Lansing, Mich., costing \$35,000, the gift of Mr Carnegie, was dedicated February 22 with appropriate ceremonies. Special exercises were held for the children in the afternoon.

The twenty-seventh annual report of the Milwaukee public library shows the circulation to be 614,114v., a gain of 68,648v. The work for the blind is growing very greatly since the special room was opened. Special collections are sent to schools, various kinds of institutions and to business houses. There are 29,108 card holders.

An interesting little pamphlet is that issued by the Cincinnati public library, which admits the bearer to the travel talks given by Librarian Hodges in the children's room of the library. The pamphlet contains list of books relating to the subject of the talks, and also facsimiles of catalog cards showing how the subjects and titles appear in the catalog.

The report of the Public school library at Columbus, Ohio, shows a total circulation of 602,708v. with 60,123v. on the shelves. There are 24 branch libraries operated in school buildings for

home use. There is need expressed for more help, more room, and more money. The total cost of operating the library, excepting janitor's service, was \$8106. Of this \$4812 was salaries.

A Carnegie building was finished and opened on January 1, at Wilmette, Ill. With a population of about 3000, and volumes in the library numbering about 2500, the circulation averages about 1200v. a month. The library is open every afternoon, and two evenings a week, and on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5. The directors take turns with the librarian in keeping the library open Sunday.

There are two reading-rooms on the first floor, one for the children. In a basement, which is practically the ground floor, there is a hall which will seat about 200 persons. In this hall is a stage, and off the stage is a room which is used as a dressing room in case of theatricals. This room is also used as a kitchen, having a gas stove, a sink, with a supply of dishes, including cutlery, enough for use by 100 persons at one time. This hall is rented for service on Sundays. It also is rented for various purposes, such as a musical or literary program, or a private entertainment, including card playing and dancing, and the proceeds are used for the purchase of books.

A masqued book carnival has just been held in the library; the people in attendance dressed in costume to represent different books, or noted characters in books. The library is made the central point for all literary and social work and gatherings.

#### South

The Rosenberg library of Galveston, Texas, will open its lecture institute with a series of lectures on great writers by Jenkin Lloyd Jones of Chicago.

Mrs G. M. Jones has given \$50,000 to Lynchburg, Va., for a library building, has provided a site for the same and given \$50,000 for an endowment fund for the library.

The first annual report of the Rosenberg library at Galveston, Texas, shows

13,195v. and 3500 pamphlets on the shelves, and a subscription list of 150 periodicals. Since the library was opened last June, 2670 borrower's cards have been issued, and 28,730v. loaned for home use.

Mrs E. G. Richmond of Chattanooga, Tenn., has endowed the children's room in the new public library of that city. She has contracted to furnish the room complete with everything needful in the way of books and fittings, and will set aside a sum sufficient to maintain it for all time to come.

The new public library of Norfolk, Va., was opened Nov. 21, 1904. Since then 4000 cards have been issued and borrowers are still registering at the rate of 25 to 60 a day. At the end of the year 10,688v. had been circulated out of 11,403v. on the shelves independent of the public documents.

The State library of Virginia has inaugurated a system of traveling libraries. Since September, 1904, between 15 and 20 traveling libraries have been in circulation, being sent upon application of 10 taxpayers in a community who are responsible for its care and return. The railroads furnish free transportation for the books.

#### West

The annual report of the Omaha public library shows a circulation of 193,705v. with 12,475 card holders and 64,887v. on the shelves. This library issues the card upon the presentation of the application. 16,695v. were circulated through the schools.

#### Pacific coast

Grace Switzer has been elected librarian of Bellingham, Wash.

J. D. Spreckels has given \$7000 to the University of California for the purchase of the Weinhold library, one of the finest private collections in Germany.

#### Canada

Lawrence J. Burpee has been appointed librarian of the new public library soon to be opened in Ottawa.

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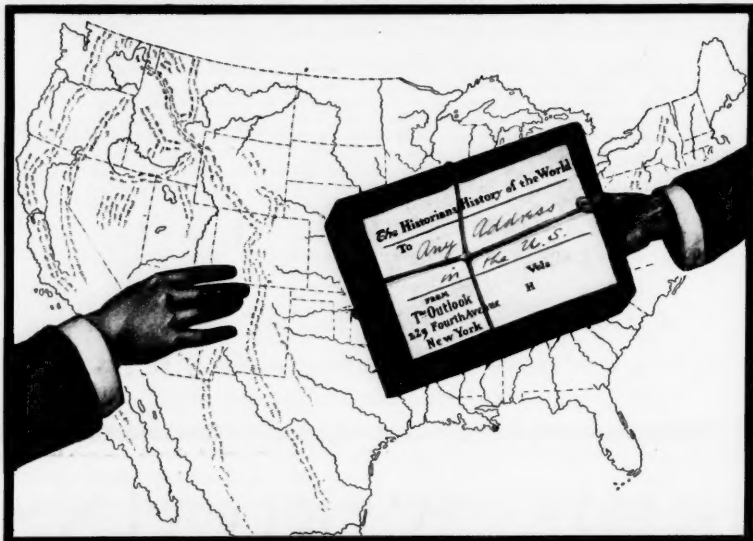
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P. L. 1



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### AUTUMN NUMBER

#### PARTIAL CONTENTS

**Mona Vanna**—A Drama by Maurice Maeterlinck. Translated by Charlotte Porter for Miss Nance O'Neill.

**Browsings in Shakespeare** by William Sloan Kennedy.

**Shakespearian Questions No. VIII** by Dr. W. J. Rolfe.

**Study Programme**—'Midsummer Night's Dream'

### WINTER NUMBER

#### PARTIAL CONTENTS

**St. John's Fire**—A Drama by Hermann Sudermann. Translated by Charlotte Porter.

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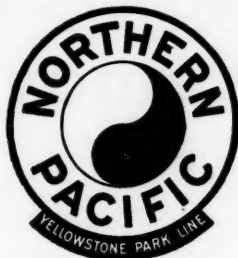
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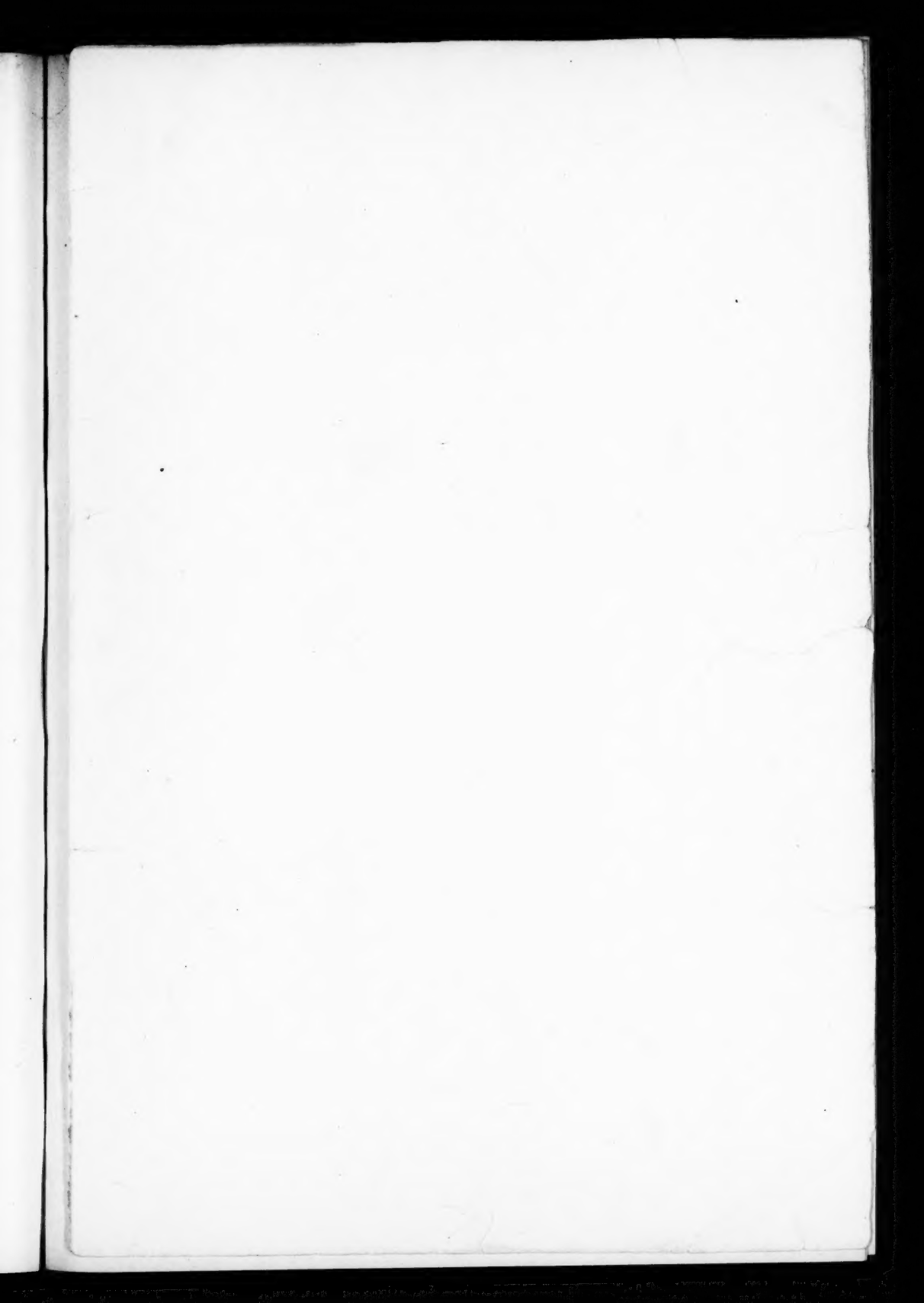
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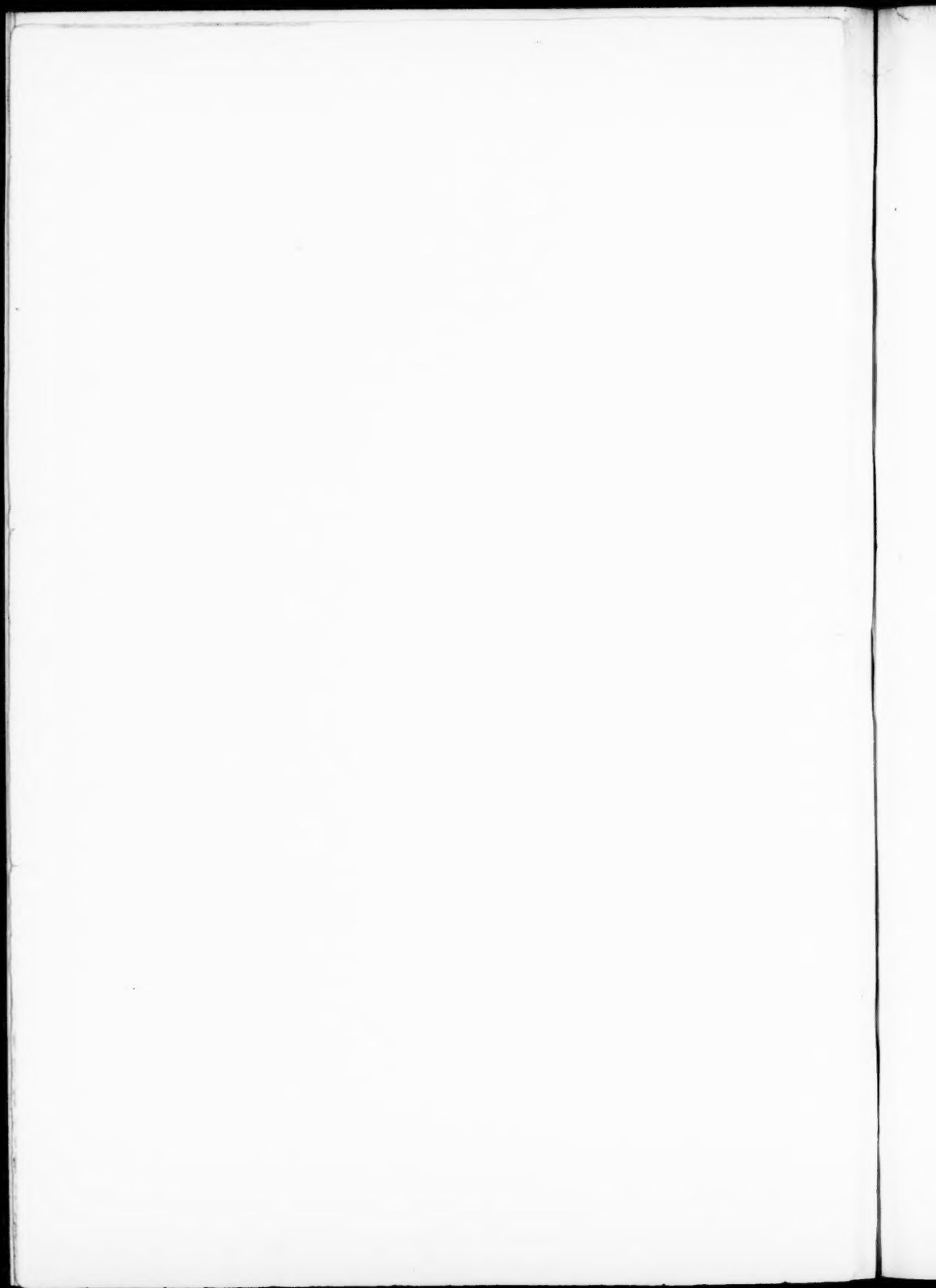
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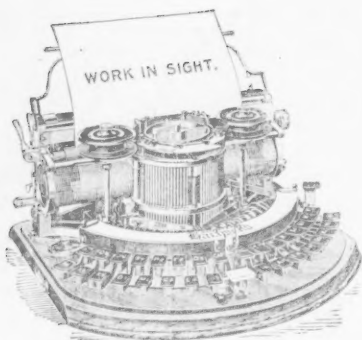
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